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AGAWAM

Advertiser News

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"Your Hometown Newspaper"

Volume XXII Number 35

September 2, 1999

Preparing For First Day Of School...



ON WEDNESDAY MORNING, AUGUST 25TH, at the Agawam Public Library, the Agawam Junior Women's Club sponsored its annual "First Time Bus Riders Program." This program is designed for Agawam and Feeding Hills children who will be taking a school bus for the first time. (See related photo in "Education.") Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Tax Revenue From Berkshire Power Estimated To Lower Average Homeowner's Tax Bill By \$100...

Mayor Johnson Proposes Property Tax Cut

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

After salting away a half-million dollars in excess tax revenue from Berkshire Power in the reserve overlay account to cover possible future tax abatements for the power plant, Mayor Christopher C. Johnson is proposing to apply close to another \$1 million in excess revenue generated by the plant to the tax levy, resulting in a significant tax cut for residential and commercial property owners in Agawam.

Johnson said setting aside funds in the overlay reserve account will ensure the town's ability to pay any abatements granted to Berkshire Power by the Appellate Tax Board in the future.

"You can bet your bottom dollar they will contest our valuation. That's common practice for a project of this size," Johnson said. "Chances are, there will be some changes made by the tax board. Rarely are towns fully sustained with a valuation of that size."

In a memorandum sent to Town Council today, Johnson writes, "Please note that the proposed FY 2000 tax rates are significantly less than the FY 1999 tax rates (\$.84 per thousand less for residential and \$.62 per thousand less for commercial/industrial) due to the application of ap-

proximately \$850,000 of excess new growth generated by the Berkshire Power project to the tax rates. With the reduction in the tax rates, Agawam has the lowest tax burden of any major community in Hampden County."

Johnson said the reduction in the tax rates he is proposing for the council's approval will lower the average single-family tax bill by about \$75 to \$100 for this fiscal year. In 1998, Agawam also had the lowest average single-family tax bill and the slowest growth trend in property taxes over a five-year period as compared to East Longmeadow, Longmeadow, and West Springfield.

Between 1994 and 1998, Agawam's average single-family tax bill grew by 6.66 percent, compared to growth rates of 21.93 percent, 15.66 percent, and 24.41 percent in East Longmeadow, Longmeadow, and West Springfield, respectively.

Council To Consider The Mayor's Proposal...

When Town Council meets next Tuesday night, September 7th, it will consider the Mayor's proposal to set the residential tax factor, which determines the share of the tax burden shifted from the

SEE TAX CUT - Page 2...

Assistance Came From Agawam...

Local Firefighters Help Put Out Holyoke Blaze

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

When the City of Holyoke had to deal with its big fire last Sunday night, they realized help was sorely needed. Requests for assistance went out to the surrounding towns. One alarm went to the Agawam Fire Department. True to the tradition of the profession, Agawam promptly answered the call. The first call came in at 8:44 p.m.; the next, a short time later.

Agawam sent two units, Engine Company number one and Engine Company number four. Company number one answered first. The four-man crew and their rig arrived on the scene at 9:00 p.m. Company number four, with a five-man crew, arrived an hour later.

Raymond Pond, a resident of Agawam and a member of Engine Company one, took in the scene as they arrived. "There are so many things to do once you reach the fire. We've been trained so highly that first impressions are secondary to just doing your job. A command center had been set up and orders were coming from there. We assisted units from South Hadley and Granby and one Holyoke engine," Pond told us.

When he finally had a moment to give a look at the nine-alarm blaze, which destroyed the Ferguson Place Apartment Complex, the Loreto House shelter housing Kate's Kitchen, and the landmark (founded in 1890) Our Lady of Perpetual

SEE HOLYOKE FIRE - Page 8...

TAX CUT - from Page 1...

residential to the commercial class, at half of the maximum shift allowed by the Department of Revenue (DOR).

If the council agrees, as it has for the past 10 years (to shift 50 percent of the maximum allowed by the DOR), Johnson estimates a drop in the residential tax rate from \$15.89 to \$15.05, and a drop in the commercial/industrial tax rate from \$21.49 to \$20.87.

The proposed new tax rates for Agawam will be below last year's rates in Chicopee (\$16.22 residential, \$28.69 commercial); in Holyoke (\$15.86 residential, \$31.24 commercial); in Springfield (\$20.65 residential, \$36.06 commercial); in Westfield (\$16.08 residential, \$27.62 commercial); and in West Springfield (\$17.64 residential, \$31.78 commercial).

Compared to seven area communities, the property tax bill for a single-family home valued at \$125,000 under the proposed tax rates (assuming no tax increase in those communities) will be lower in Agawam by as much as \$700 compared to Springfield; \$611.25 compared to Longmeadow; and \$547.50 compared to East Longmeadow. Closest to Agawam's single-family tax bill for a home valued at \$125,000 were Holyoke (plus \$101.25), Westfield (plus \$128.75), Chicopee (plus \$146.25), and West Springfield (plus \$323.75).

"Over the last five years, our average single-family tax bill has gone from the middle of the pack to one of the lowest in the area for a full-service community," Johnson said. "Over the last decade, there has been almost a doubling of the commercial tax base, and Berkshire Power is a significant contributor to our new growth in the commercial/industrial tax base."

Over the last decade, there has been a dramatic transformation in the percentage of the tax base divided between the residential and the commer-

cial/industrial class, Johnson said.

The Driving Forces...

Johnson said growth at the industrial park over the last five years, along with the expansion underway at Riverside Park and the construction of the Berkshire Power project, are the driving forces behind the town's major shift in the percentages between residential and commercial property. A shift to a 75 percent/25 percent ratio over a decade would have been considered great by financial consultants hired by the town several years ago.

"The bottom line is that the commercial/industrial class sends no kids to the school system and 60 to 70 cents of the town's operating budget goes directly or indirectly to support the public schools," Johnson said. "The result is that we have had the money to tackle so many initiatives in the School Department because of the growth we've had in the commercial/industrial tax base."

Johnson credited steady leadership at the helm for 10 years for the first time in decades with the town's economic growth. Part of the reason his administration has been so successful in attracting new business is that Johnson and Planning Director Deborah S. Dachos meet personally with developers, often over a period of years, to create a business-friendly atmosphere of credibility.

Johnson is proud to say Agawam is host to two of the major economic development projects in the state at Riverside Park and at the Berkshire Power plant.

Six years ago, the tax base was split 80 percent residential to 20 percent commercial compared to this year's split of 71.6 percent residential, 10.8 percent commercial, 12.8 percent industrial, and 4.6 percent personal property. The total valuation of all property in Agawam is currently at \$1,607,393,192. The residential class is valued at \$1,152,196,754; commercial at \$174,631,898, industrial at \$206,405,560, and personal property at \$74,158,980.

leadership and to wish him well in the future.

Tickets may be purchased by calling either Ray Wyckoff at 786-0050 or Rita Moore at 786-9094.

Tickets will be limited, so the committee would advise anyone who plans on attending this event to purchase their tickets early.

Regular Council Meeting Agenda

**Agawam Middle School, 68 Main St.,
Tuesday, September 7th - 7:30 P.M.**

1. Citizen's Speak Time.
2. Roll Call.
3. Moment of Silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Minutes - Regular Council Meeting of 8/2/99.
5. Declaration from Council President.
6. Presentation of Petitions, Memorials & Remonstrances.

(a) Resolutions.

1. TR-99-22- A Resolution Confirming the Appointment of Andrew C. Campbell, 30 Barry St., FH, MA 01030 to the Agawam Municipal Golf Commission to Fill an Unexpected Term Expiring on December 31, 2000 (Mayor). (Tabled on 8/2/99.)

2. TR-99-27- A Resolution Adopting the Fiscal Year 2000 Supplemental Operating Budget for the Town of Agawam (Mayor).

3. TR-99-28- A Resolution Adopting the New Agawam Council Rules & Regulations as amended by the 1999 Agawam City Council Rules & Regulations Committee (Coun. Young on behalf of Rules & Reg. Comm.).

7. Report of Council Committees.

8. Elections.

None.

9. Public Hearings.

(a)

1. PH-99-8-(TR-99-26)- A Resolution Adopting a Residential Factor of .000000 (To be determined) Pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40, Section 56 (Conduct Public Hearings).

10. Old Business.

(a)

1. TOR-99-4- An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 173, Art. XI Entitled "Backflow and Cross-Connection Regulations" of the Code of the Town of Agawam (DPW)(3rd Reading).

2. TO-99-28- Dealers in Violation of Class I & II Licenses (Coun. Negrucchi)(Tabled on 8/2/99).

3. TO-99-38- Voucher List (\$4,344.00).

Have a great Labor Day weekend...

Tribute For Mayor Christopher Slated For October 1st At Alexander's Restaurant

A tribute to Mayor Christopher C. Johnson will be held on Friday, October 1, 1999 at Alexander's Restaurant in Feeding Hills. There will be a social hour at 6:00 p.m., followed by a buffet at 7:00 p.m.

This event will be an opportunity to express appreciation to Mayor Johnson for his 10 years of

SCOTT M. HIBBERT

Attorney at Law

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AGAWAM PUBLIC MARKET

Prices Effective Monday, September 6th — Saturday, September 11th

USDA CHOICE

Boneless Sirloin Steak	\$2.99 Lb.
Boneless Spoon Roast	\$2.69 Lb.
Boneless Top Round London Broil	\$2.49 Lb.
Fresh Ground Round	
5 Lbs. Or More	\$2.49 Lb.
10 Lbs. Or More	\$1.99 Lb.
Fresh Ground Round Patties	
(1/4 Lb. Each / 12 Patties / 3 Lb. Box)	\$7.99
Fresh Ground Beef	
5 Lbs. Or More	\$1.69 Lb.
10 Lbs. Or More	\$1.39 Lb.
Fresh Hamburg Patties	
(1/4 Lb. Each / 8 Patties / 2 Lb. Box)	\$4.49

PORK SALE

Center Cut Pork Chops	\$1.89 Lb.
Center Cut Pork Roast	
(Bone-In)	\$1.79 Lb.
Country Style Pork	
Ribs	\$1.39 Lb.
Boneless Pork Roast (Cut From Loin Or Rib)	\$1.99 Lb.
Fresh Ground Pork	\$1.69 Lb.
Loin End Pork Roast	\$1.69 Lb.
Whole Pork Loins (Cut To Order)	\$1.59 Lb.
Whole Boneless Top Sirloins	\$1.99 Lb.
Whole Butt Tenderloins	\$5.29 Lb.
Grade "A" Chicken Breast	
Whole	\$1.39 Lb.
Split	\$1.59 Lb.

DELI

Land O' Lakes American Cheese	\$2.99 Lb.
-------------------------------	------------

Land O' Lakes Sandwich Swiss Cheese	\$3.49 Lb.
Russer German Bologna	\$1.39 Lb.
Canadian Imported Ham	\$2.99 Lb.
Deutsmacher Polish Loaf	\$2.39 Lb.
Citterio Hot Capicola	\$3.99 Lb.
Thumann's Gourmet Turkey Breast	\$4.99 Lb.
Willow Brook Turkey Pastrami	\$1.99 Lb.

DAIRY

Hood 1% Low Fat Milk (Gallon)	\$2.09
Hood Skim Milk (Gallon)	\$1.99
Friendly Ice Cream (Half Gallon)	2/\$6.00

SEAFOOD

Frozen Swordfish Steaks	\$3.99 Lb.
Frozen Lobster Meat (11.3 Oz. Can)	\$10.99
Alaskan King Crab Legs	\$9.99

PRODUCE

Bananas	39¢ Lb.
California Large Fancy Peaches	39¢ Each
New Crop Prune Plums	69¢ Lb.
Local Potatoes (10 Lb. Bag)	\$1.69
Canadian Carrots (1-Lb. Bag)	29¢ Each
Local Onions (3-Lb. Bag)	89¢
Fresh Broccoli	99¢ (Bunch)

Monday, September 6th —
Labor Day Only

FREE Disposable Barbecue Grill With Purchase Of One 5-Lb. Box Of Frozen Hamburg Patties (Limited Supply)

Tuesday & Wednesday Special...

Land O' Lakes American Cheese
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Buy 1, Get 1 FREE

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\$1.09 Plus Deposit

Grinder Special...
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Letters To The Editor

Muscular Dystrophy Assoc. Thanks Area Businesses

To The Editor:

The friends and families of the Muscular Dystrophy Association would like to thank all the local companies that donated items to our sixth annual "Lights! Camera! Auction," which was held August 12th at The Log Cabin Banquet & Meeting House in Holyoke.

We would also like to thank the 300 people who helped make this a fun and successful event. We hope to see everyone there again next year.

Agawam and Southwick companies that donated are:

Advantage Limousine; Agawam Bowl; Agawam Family Cinemas; Agawam Golf Course; Ambrogio's Bakery; American Classics Restaurant; B & D Citgo; Beaver Camper Service; Christo's Restaurant; Cost Cutters Family Hair Care; Country Squire Furniture; Crestview Country Club; Dave's Soda and Pet Food City; E.B.'s Chicken Restaurant; Games and Lanes; Good Fellaz Bar & Grill; Xanth's.

Hometown Candle Company; H.P. Hood; Longhi's Miniature Golf & Driving Range; Michael's Hair & Nail Techniques; McDonald's of Agawam; Moto-Cross 338; Mushy's Golf Driving Range; Nicky's Pizza; Olive Oil's Restaurant; Partner's Restaurant; Riverside Park; Roma Restaurant; Taylor Rental; The Sand Trap; Towne Insurance Company; Whalley Computer.

Sincerely,

Brian K. Dutton

A/Event Coordinator

MDA Executive Committee

Western Massachusetts Chapter

(413) 527-0036

Agawam Retired Employees Seeks Further Support

To The Editor:

To Agawam Retirees:

We need your support to help you. Our organization, Agawam Retired Employees, Inc., has accomplished the following:

1. Lobbied the town to allow surviving spouses to pay only 50 percent, instead of 100 percent, of the cost of town insurance.

2. Arranged guest speakers on health insurance, prescription drugs, ways retirees can protect their assets, and elected public officials to inform retirees on legislation affecting retirees.

3. Our organization is now incorporated by the Secretary of State to enable us to act in an official capacity in our state.

We are now working on the following:

1. Increase our town insurance for retirees.

2. Automatic rebates to retirees on their property taxes.

3. Additional living and recreational facilities for senior citizens.

4. Increase the cost of living adjustments to retirees.

Our next meeting will be on September 15th at 2:00 at the Agawam Library. Please make an attempt to attend. Your help is needed.

Rudy Altobelli
President

Issues Need To Be Debated Before Mayoral Primary

To The Editor:

It's five weeks to the Agawam Primary race for mayor.

There are four candidates running for mayor. I am asking the Agawam City Council to allow for two debates to take place before the primary. This will give the voters a clear understanding of the candidate's positions on issues within our community, and their philosophy on leadership for the community.

We currently have two city councilors who are running for mayor who enjoy bi-weekly exposure to the public via the City Council meetings, which are televised. There are two candidates who do not enjoy such benefits. Having the two debates would be in the spirit of fairness and would demonstrate overall concern for the voters, allowing them to be fully informed as to the other two candidates and their positions on issues as well as their vision for Agawam.

Some of the issues that should be open for debate are:

1. Capital improvements, such as a new Senior Center, and sidewalks on major streets such as, but not limited to, School Street, Leonard Street, and Adams Street, as well as repairing existing sidewalks.

2. Raising funding through federal grants and/or state grants to improve the riverfront property that Agawam acquired from the County of Hampden.

3. Why is Agawam paying nearly \$400,000 for the unfunded Hampden County retirement liability when the state assured Agawam that it would assume this liability?

4. To create tax relief for the residential citizens of Agawam in the form of a tax reduction plan on properties as well as creating an additional tax relief plan for our seniors who enjoy ownership of their own home.

5. A "zero tolerance" policy for elected and appointed officials who misuse and/or abuse their office. The youth in our community should know that we, as adults and leaders of the community, will adhere to the same standards and expectations that we set for them.

6. Opening discussions of the formation of a Police Commission as well as opening the discussion for charter revision.

There are many other issues of importance, perhaps the most important, the education of the youth of Agawam who will be the leaders of tomorrow. We spend nearly half the annual budget on education, which is approximately \$20 million. One of the debates that we have should focus in on just such issues.

The issues that I have proposed for discussion are far too important not to be debated, and I would pray on the wisdom of the Council to sponsor and support debate on these and other issues.

The future of our community and the future of our children are just that important.

Abe Kasparian

Candidate For Mayor

Agawam

Summer Entertainment Series Was A Great Success In Town

To The Editor:

On behalf of the Agawam Cultural Council and the Agawam Rotary Club, I would like to thank the many, many people who helped make the Summer Entertainment Series a great success. By our estimates, the 11-event series attracted over 12,000 people from throughout Agawam and western Massachusetts.

The series would not have been possible without the support of the over 75 local businesses who provided event and program guide sponsorships and made a program of this scale possible.

Special thanks to all those Rotarians and Cultural Council members who were there week after week with the onerous task of setting up and taking down. You know who you are!

Thank you to Mayor Johnson and both Tom and Mike and everyone else in the town offices who helped make things easy for us. Thanks to Mike Kennedy and Dave Fournier for providing great sound and lighting every week. Thanks to *The Agawam Advertiser News* for helping us promote the series.

Thank you to all the wonderfully talented musicians who agreed to give us a chance. Most importantly, thanks to all of you who came out to enjoy the shows and made this effort worthwhile. Without exception, each band told us what a wonderful audience you were.

See you next year!

Sincerely,

Mike Grandfield

Summer Series Committee Chairman

Agawam Cultural Council & Agawam Rotary Club

WMass. Summer Soccer School Thanks Supporters

To The Editor:

Western Mass. Summer Soccer School, based out of Agawam, wishes to thank all who supported the camp that took place at the Polish American Club during the week of August 16th-August 20th. The camp was open to boys and girls ages six to 14.

After a great week of weather and soccer, Western Mass. Summer Soccer School would like to thank the 71 campers and 10 staff members that made the camp a success in its first year in Agawam. It seemed to be an enjoyable experience for all.

A great big thank you needs to go out to the Agawam Soccer Association and Polish American Club. With their equipment and facilities, Western Mass. Summer Soccer School would not have been a possibility.

Sincerely,

Jeff Rousseau

Dwight Northrup

Co-Directors

Presentation Slated On Massachusetts' Homestead Act

Donald E. Ashe, Hampden County Register of Deeds, will give a presentation on the Massachusetts Homestead Act on September 14th from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m. The talk will be held at the Agawam Senior Center at 68 Meadowbrook Manor, Agawam.

Ashe will explain the benefits of this valuable Massachusetts statute to homeowners. He will be available to answer questions following his talk.

Those who wish to fill out the form and have it brought back to the registry for recording may do so with the assistance of the registry staff (who will be on hand). Free Notary Public services will be offered.

Those who will be homesteading their property should bring their deeds with them and a check for \$10 for the recording fee.

If you are not able to find your deed, you may call the registry in advance at (413) 784-0479 to obtain the book and page of your deed. We may be able to access the information on the laptop computer on the date of the presentation, but there may be a long wait. You should try to have your deed info with you.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing at the Agawam Middle School Cafeteria, 68 Main St., Agawam, MA on THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1999 at 6:30 P.M., for all parties interested in the petition of BILL & JOAN BESSETTE, who are seeking a Special Permit in accordance with Section 180-17 of the Zoning Ordinances to allow for the construction of a second floor addition to the existing single family residential structure at the premises identified as: 21 CHANNELL DRIVE.

Doreen Prouty,
Acting Chairperson

Published: September 2, 1999

Best local news...



The Agawam Advertiser•News

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THE AGAWAM ADVERTISER NEWS (U.S.P.S.-001-170) is published weekly for \$24.50 per year by PAG Publications, Inc., 14 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills, MA 01030-0263. Second class postage is paid at F.H., MA 01030 & at associated offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Agawam Advertiser News, P.O. Box 263, F.H., MA 01030-0263.

At Games And Lanes...

Police Arrest Three New Haven Men In Early Morning Drug Bust

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

Three New Haven men are facing a mandatory minimum sentence of 2½ years behind bars if convicted on charges of selling drugs within 1,000 feet of a school zone, according to Agawam Police Sergeant Wayne Macey.

Arrested in the early hours of Saturday morning in the Games and Lanes parking lot on Walnut Street Extension were Richard E. Lopez, Eric M. Urbinanti, and Jesse N. Fenn. All three 20 year-olds listed 282 Forbes Avenue, New Haven, CT, as their address. Police believe the three are college students living in a dormitory.

The three were arraigned on charges of possession of a class B substance with intent to distribute; selling drugs within 1,000 feet of a school zone; and conspiracy to violate the narcotics law.

Pleas of not guilty were entered on behalf of the three men at an arraignment hearing on Monday in Springfield District Court and the cases have been continued. Forfeiture papers are being prepared for the car the men were allegedly selling the drug Ecstasy from.

Ecstasy, also known as MDMA, is a derivative of amphetamine that gives users a sense of euphoria and well-being and makes people who are shy much more outgoing, explaining the drug's appeal and popularity among young people, Macey said.

Macey said no one under 18 is allowed to attend the Rave parties that have been held over the summer at Games and Lanes. But, large numbers of teens, some as young as 15, have been congregating in the parking lot creating problems with drugs and alcohol, according to the police.

"There is just as much going on outside as inside," Macey said. "There have been significant

problems in the parking lot and we will be monitoring the situation. We are not going to tolerate this."

Complaints From Parents...

Macey said the department has had some complaints from parents and will be out in force in areas where kids are known to gather as well as anywhere in town where the police may not be expected to show up.

"We'll be there in force even when the kids think we're not. Anywhere in town, we'll be there," Macey vowed.

Macey said the Saturday morning arrests came after the police received information that there would be quite a bit of the drug Ecstasy coming into the Games and Lanes parking lot while a Rave party was underway Friday night from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m., Macey said.

The three men were taken into custody and 150 pills of the drug were confiscated along with \$1,200 in cash after plainclothes detectives observed the three suspects allegedly selling the pills for \$25 each to young people congregating in the parking lot, according to Macey.

The arresting officers, all plainclothes detectives, were Mark Pfau, Mark Poggi, and Michael Gruska.

According to police reports, the arrests were made at 3:00 a.m., just one hour after the off-duty police officers hired by Games and Lanes to provide security finished their 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. shift.

According to the police, the three suspects waited until the uniformed officers hired for security were off-duty before allegedly selling the drugs.

Veterans' Corner...

Local Attorney To Offer Free Consultations During Sept.

by Ruth C. Bitzas
Veterans' Agent
Agawam Town Hall, Ext. 236/237

First of all, congratulations to Agawam veteran Art Foley, who just received his World War II medals from the Dept. of the Army. He received the Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal, American Defense Service Medal, American Campaign Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Medal with Arrowhead, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, and the Silver Star for Gallantry in Action in serving in five campaigns in World War II.

We walk among heroes! It's men and women like Mr. Foley that have kept us a free nation.

Agawam Attorney Alan R. Ferrigno called our office after seeing the *Union News* article on Mr. Foley and has offered FREE LEGAL CONSULTATIONS for Agawam veterans during the month of September. Veterans with questions or in need of legal advice may contact his office at 546 Springfield Street (telephone number 786-9454) for an appointment.

On behalf of Agawam veterans, we are very grateful and appreciative of Attorney Ferrigno's thoughtful offer. If you have any questions on Attorney Ferrigno's offer to veterans, please call our office at the above number.

Taxation On Gold Star Parents And 100% Service-Connected Annuities?

In July of 1998, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts passed legislation which allows Gold Star parents and 100-percent service-connected disabled veterans an annual annuity of \$1,500. I am often asked if this income is taxable.

John Corey, Mass. Dept. of Veterans' Services Legal Counsel, posed this question to the Dept. of Revenue. Their response was:

"... Mass. tax law does not specify a difference in the area of disability payments and benefits to parents of veterans. I believe the income specified would qualify for exclusion based on a review of IRS law.

"Under section 104(b) of the IRS Code, Disability Pensions from the Veterans' Administration are tax-free. Military retirees who receive disability benefits from other government sources are not taxed on amount equal to the benefits they would be entitled to receive from the Veterans' Administration." (Source: State Dept. of Revenue response.)

"Freedom was not given to us by someone else ... it was fought for."

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM BOARD OF APPEALS

LEGAL NOTICE

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B-22, Section 180-69 and Section 180-71 of the Zoning Ordinances to allow for the installation of a membrane structure at the premises identified as: ROUTE 5, BOND'S ISLAND.

Doreen Prouty,
Acting Chairperson

Published: September 2, 1999

Our office will be closed on Monday, Labor Day (September 6th); we will reopen on Tuesday, September 7th, at 6:30 a.m.

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— Agawam Obituaries —

Fred W. Barber

Fred W. Barber, 75, of 922 Sara Bay Road, Osprey, Florida, died recently at Sarasota Memorial Hospital.

He was a retired truck driver for Holmes Transportation Co. of Springfield, MA.

Born in Springfield, he lived in Agawam most of his life before moving to Florida in 1994.

He was a life member and past commander of the American Legion Post in Agawam and a members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Moose Club, and the Eagles Aerie in Venice.

He served in the Navy during World War II.

He leaves his companion, Ann Poggi; three sons, Fred W. Jr. and Robert T., both of Venice, and Michael E. of West Springfield; two daughters, Carol Meunier of Seattle, Washington, and Debra Schippe of Springfield; a brother, David of Springfield; a sister, Gladys Shadie of New Britain, Connecticut; 11 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home, with burial in Springfield Street Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Hospice of the Pioneer Valley, 50 Maple Street, P.O. Box 9058, Springfield, MA 01102-9058.

Celia L. Healey

Celia L. (Burger) Healey, 88, of Quail Run Estates, Agawam, died recently at home.

She was a 27-year operator for the former New England Telephone Co. and retired in 1974.

Born in Bransville, Missouri, she was schooled in Kansas.

She was a former member of the Congregational Church in Palmer.

Her husband, James F. Healey, died in 1996.

She leaves three nieces and two nephews.

On request, her body was donated to the Boston University Medical School. A burial service will be scheduled in the Agawam Veterans' Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice of Western New England, 50 Maple Street, P.O. Box 9058, Springfield, MA 01102-9058.

Helen R. Andrews

Helen Richardson Andrews, 94, a long-time resident of Agawam, died recently in Lake Placid, Florida.

Born and schooled in Philmont, New York, she graduated from the Troy (New York) Conservatory of Music in 1926. She was the organist at the Dutch Reformed Church in Philmont for several years.

She was a member of the Agawam Congregational Church and was active in its Ladies Aid Society and the Agawam Women's Club.

Her husband, George E. Andrews, died in 1984. She leaves two sons, Laurance R. of Sebring, Florida, and Deane O. of Carrollton, Texas; a daughter, Jane Dorr of North Bergen, New Jersey; 13 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren.

A private funeral was held at the Congregational Church, with burial in Rocky Hill (Connecticut) Cemetery. Stephenson-Nelson Funeral Home of Sebring, Florida, was in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Organ Restoration Fund, Congregational Church, Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001.

Paul A. Pigeon

Paul A. Pigeon, 67, of 340 North West Street of Feeding Hills, died recently at home.

He started Valley Siding of Feeding Hills in 1988 and retired in 1998. He also was an automotive mechanic and carpenter most of his life.

He was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church, served in the Army during the Korean War, and was a member of the Dancing Shadows square dance club of Chicopee.

He leaves his wife, the former Ethel Richard; four sons, Robert W. Robar of Springfield, and Edward P. Pigeon, Paul T. Pigeon, and Wallace R. Pigeon, all of Feeding Hills; a sister, Pauline Pigeon of Florida; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

A military funeral was held at Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home and the church, with burial in Springfield Street Cemetery.

Lydia H. Vogel

Lydia H. Vogel, 88, of 627 North Westfield Street in Feeding Hills, died recently at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

She owned and operated the Berlyd Boarding Kennels for 45 years.

She was a breeder of Kerry blue terriers and black miniature poodles. She introduced soft-coated Irish wheaten terriers to this country in 1946.

Born in Stuttgart, Germany, she came to this country as a child and lived in Feeding Hills for 40 years.

She also lived in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

She leaves two nephews, Robert Vogel of Melbourne, Florida, and Kurt Vogel of Ocala, Florida; a niece, Barbara Counts of Ocala; and her friends, Walter R. Zambelli of Feeding Hills and Dorothy S. Jenks of Agawam.

The burial was held in Forest Lawn Memorial Garden in Fort Lauderdale. Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to Concerned Citizens for Animals Inc., P.O. Box 80073 Springfield, MA 01138.

Emilia Gheno

Emilia (Licursi) Gheno, 93, of Agawam, died recently at a local nursing home.

A seamstress for 40 years, she worked at the former Whitley Tailors for 20 years and for the former Asinof Clothing Co.

Born and schooled in Italy, she lived in Springfield for 70 years and moved to Agawam in 1988.

Her husband, Ercole Gheno, died in 1978.

She leaves a daughter, Sylvia L. Sullivan of Springfield, and stepgrandchildren.

The funeral was held at Forastiere Funera Home and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church with burial in St. Michael's Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Heritage Hall East Nursing Home Activities Fund 464 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001, or the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, 171 Union Street, Springfield MA 01108.

Morris Polansky

Morris Polansky, 83, of 76 Corey Colonial Drive Agawam, died recently at a Fairfield, Connecticut nursing home.

He worked for the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority for many years.

Born in Holyoke, he lived in Ware before moving to Agawam 20 years ago.

SEE OBITUARIES - Page 7..

In Loving Memory Of Leo J. Vergnani

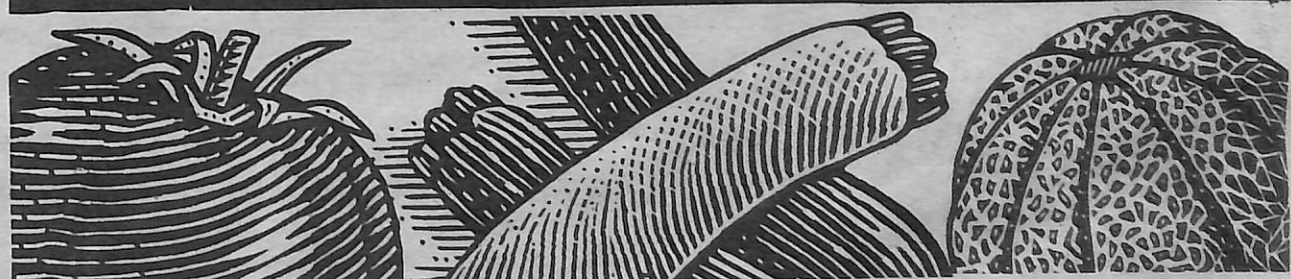
Who Passed Away
Sept. 4, 1996



*I think of you in silence and make
no outward show,
But what it meant to lose you, no
one will ever know.
Your golden heart stopped beating,
with tender hands at rest.
God broke my heart to prove,
He only takes the best.
To some you may be forgotten,
To others a part of the past.
But for me who loves you dearly,
Your memory will always last.
If I could have one lifetime wish,
One dream that would come true,
I pray to God with all my heart,
For yesterday and you.*

Ma, Dad, & Pete

**GREEN BEANS, YELLOW BEANS
BEETS, CARROTS, CORN
COWS, CANTALOUPE
EGGPLANT, FRYING PEPPERS
SWEET PEPPERS, HOT PEPPERS
TOMATOES, WATERMELON
YELLOW SQUASH, ZUCCHINI
AND LOTS, LOTS MORE!**



EVERYTHING YOU'D GROW IF YOU HAD 40 ACRES.

E. CECCHI FARMS

1131 SPRINGFIELD STREET, FEEDING HILLS, MASS.

OBITUARIES - from Page 6...

He was a member of Beth El Temple in Springfield, Massachusetts.

His wife, the former Lillian Uretsky, died in 1997.

He leaves a daughter, Diane Weinstock of Westport, Connecticut, and two grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Harold R. Ascher & Son Memorial Chapel of Springfield, with burial in Beth El Cemetery in West Springfield. The memorial observance took place at the home of Diane Weinstock.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Beth Israel Medical Center, 16th Street, New York City, or the Fairfield Jewish Home, 175 Jefferson Street, Fairfield, Connecticut 06432.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

**TOWN OF AGAWAM
AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on Thursday, September 2, 1999 at 7:00 PM in the Faolin Peirce Community Room, Agawam Police Station, 681 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, Mass. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Lewin for property known as 875 River Road.

By Order of Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission
Published: September 2, 1999

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

**TOWN OF AGAWAM
AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on Thursday, September 2, 1999 at 7:15 PM in the Faolin Peirce Community Room, Agawam Police Station, 681 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, Mass. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of Hill for property located on Mill Street.

By Order of Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission
Published: September 2, 1999

ADVERTISER NEWS

Proceeds To Benefit Scholarship Fund...

Mayor's Retirement Party Slated For Jan. 21st

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

After nearly 11 years as the town's first and only Mayor, his name has been on literally thousands of documents and it is inscribed on dedication plaques commemorating building projects at most of the eight school buildings in town.

When he leaves office in January, the Christopher C. Johnson Scholarship will be one more reminder of the Mayor's focus on making education his top priority during more than a decade in office.

A retirement party for Mayor Christopher C. Johnson will be held on January 21st at The Oaks Banquet House on Suffield Street to give people a chance to say good-bye, to wish him well in the future, and to launch the scholarship trust fund, according to Joann McGeoghan, the Mayor's long-time friend and campaign strategist.

The price of the tickets for the evening of music, dancing, and hors-d'oeuvres will be kept in the neighborhood of \$20 so that everyone who wants to come can afford it, Mrs. McGeoghan said.

"I think it's important for the community to come out to say good-bye and to thank Chris for all the service he's given to the town and to wish him well as he furthers his career in whatever he chooses to do. He's given 11 years to the town," Mrs. McGeoghan said. "This will be the only retirement party."

The goal of the scholarship committee is to raise \$10,000 to be put in a trust fund to pay out scholarships every year to one or two Agawam

High School graduating seniors who plan to continue their education at an accredited college or university. Proceeds from the sale of tickets to the retirement party will cover expenses and support the scholarship fund, but donations from businesses and from the community will provide the bulk of the money for the trust fund.

"Hopefully, businesses and residents will contribute to the fund so that this will be our only fundraiser," Mrs. McGeoghan said. "Donors' names will be listed in the evening's program. Anyone who wants to contribute can send a check made out to the Christopher C. Johnson Scholarship Fund to the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs at Town Hall."

The evening is intended to be a night of fun and relaxation with a DJ for dancing, not an evening of speeches. Rather than having a memory book for people to sign, the committee plans to have writing materials on hand for people to drop a private note to the Mayor to be read later, Mrs. McGeoghan said.

Anyone with suggestions to offer for the party can contact Mrs. McGeoghan at 786-1982.

"We're waiting for him to leave office before we say good-bye," Mrs. McGeoghan said. "The retirement party and the scholarship fund will be his farewell gift from the town."

Mrs. McGeoghan will serve as president of the trust fund; the board members are Patrick Nolan and Chris Johnson.

LEGAL NOTICE

**TOWN OF AGAWAM
PUBLIC HEARING**

LEGAL NOTICE

You are hereby notified that a public hearing will be held at Agawam Middle School, 68 Main Street, in the Town of Agawam, Massachusetts, at 7:00 o'clock p.m., on Tuesday, September 7th, 1999 upon petition of New England Telephone and Telegraph Co. and Western Mass. Electric Company dated July 21, 1999 for permission to: customer at 777 Silver St. is building a new two car garage. 2 joint poles need to be relocated in order to provide service in the ways or parts of

ways designated route of line you are an owner of real estate as determined by the last preceding assessment for taxation.

Dated this 4th day of August, 1999. Information regarding this petition may be obtained from Western Mass. Electric Company in Springfield. Tel. No. 785-5871.

PETITION No. 1361. STREET: Silver St.
Published: September 2, 1999

Ursula Retzler
Clerk of the Council



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Charlie Grasso

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HOLYOKE FIRE - from Page 1...

Help Church on Chestnut Street, he saw the enemy. "It (the blaze) was pushed by heavy winds which drove the heat in front of it. Big pieces of burning plywood flew through the air along with hundreds of fiery embers. They were landing over a large area, igniting blazes all around us. Crews had to be diverted to fight them, thus taking manpower away from the main fire," Pond said.

Engine Company number one was assigned to a hydrant, using the power of their engine and five-inch supply hoses to boost the water pressure to the towers set up by other towns' firefighters. Engine Company four was positioned in a standby role.

Danger All Around

There was danger all around, according to Pond. "You have to be careful. Burning buildings were nearby. They get weak and could collapse. The towers have to be aware of overhead wires. And in a fire, wires, still live and hooked to the buildings, will many times fall to the ground creating a very bad situation should you step on one with all the water around."

Then Pond added, "High pressure hoses are all over the place. If one breaks, it becomes like a huge writhing snake. One blow can possibly kill you."

There was a tense moment for the crew of Engine Company one. "The flying embers landed on an apartment building close to where we were and ignited the third floor. The crews up the street had to run hoses down there. It took time. Myself and another Agawam firefighter, John Johnson, grabbed two extinguishers off of a Chicopee truck and went in, up to the third floor, to try and control it. That floor was not occupied, but the other two were. People were running around, trying to get their things out. Luckily, everyone escaped and the fire was put down. No one was hurt," Pond said.

The log shows that both Engine Company number one and number four left the scene at 2:46 Monday morning. All Agawam firefighters returned home unscathed.

Senator Melconian Welcomes Interns To District Office

Senate Majority Leader Linda J. Melconian (D-Springfield) is pleased to welcome Joseph Wise, Jr. as an intern to her district office. Joseph, a Springfield native, will be attending Holyoke Community College in the fall and is excited to continue his community service experiences with the Senator's office.

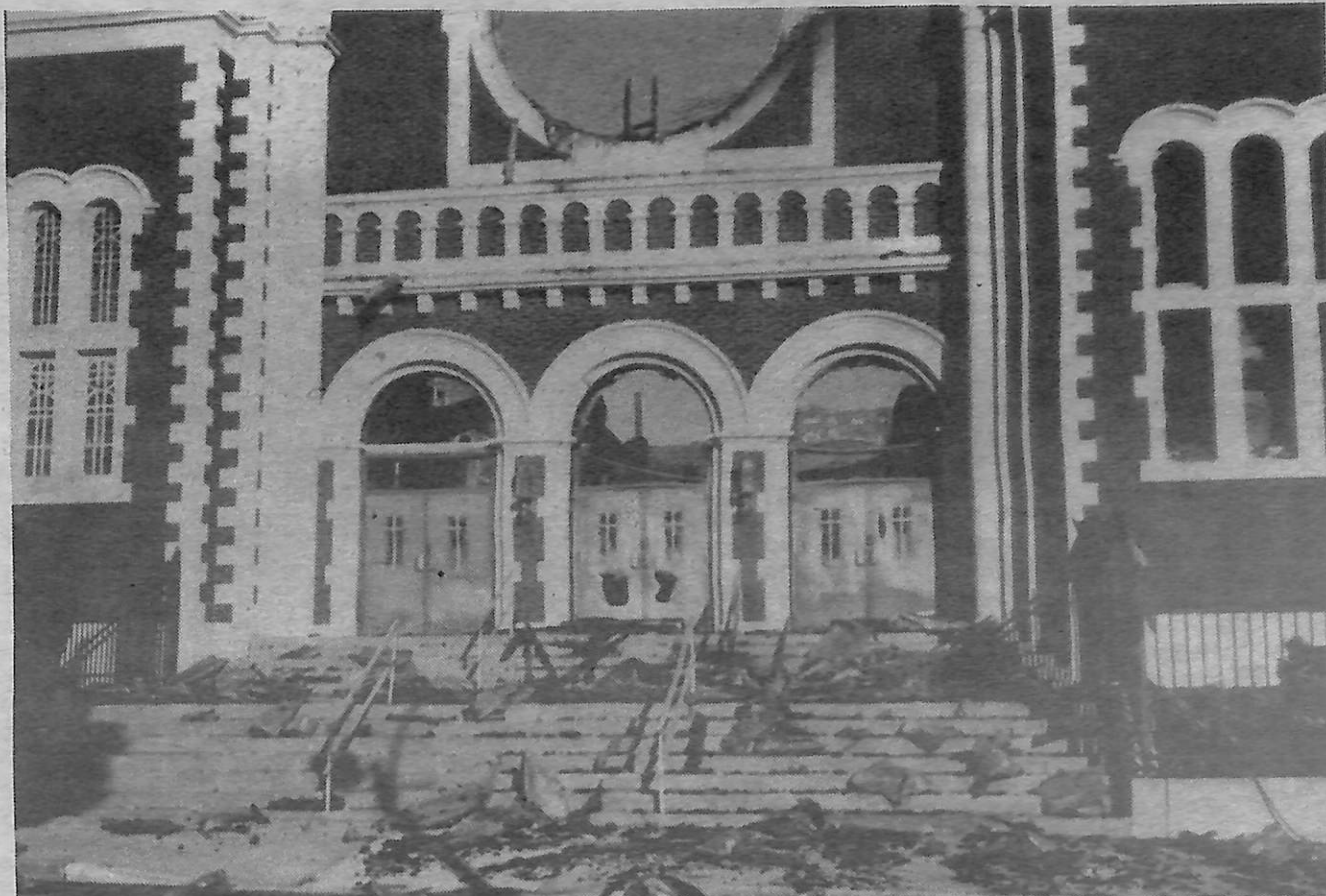
As a freshman at Holyoke Community College, Joseph will be majoring in business. He plans to attend Holyoke Community for one year, and then transfer to Howard University to finish undergraduate school.

A May 1999 graduate from the Springfield Christian School, Joseph was very active both in and outside of school. He was the editor of the school yearbook, a member of the school choir, and was on the varsity basketball team, where he was selected the most improved player.

Most of Joseph's community service went to his nine years of involvement with the award-winning D. Edward Wells Youth Credit Union. There, he held many positions including teller/clerk, assistant manager, and President. He is currently chairman of the advertisement/education committee.

"Travelling around the world is a great experience, but travelling around the world teaching other people how to start their own Credit Union is one of the best experiences a person could have," says Joseph. Joseph has also been on many committees in the community focused on helping to give youth a greater opportunity to succeed in life pursuing their dreams. Because of his dedication, hard work, and commitment to community service, Joseph was recommended by Pioneer Valley

SEE INTERNS - Page 9...



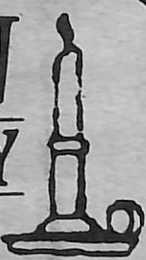
THE FRONT OF Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church on Chestnut Street, Holyoke, after the devastating fire on Sunday, August 29th. Photo courtesy of Mary Ann Gazillo.



IN LEFT PHOTO: The gutted remains of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. IN RIGHT PHOTO: Just some of the damage that resulted from the August 29th fire in Holyoke. Photos courtesy of Mary Ann Gazillo.

For photo coverage in The AAN, please call us at 786-7747 or 786-8137; however, please give us at least 72 hours' notice prior to your event...

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the month -

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Scents
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INTERNS - from Page 8...

Student/Teachers landscaping, to apply for the internship at Senator Linda Melconian's District Office.

"I am very blessed and thankful to have been given the opportunity to work with Senator Melconian. I am also ready to take on the many responsibilities ahead, including administrative duties, drafting press releases, assisting staff, answering constituents concerns, updating database files, and legislative research," said Joseph. "This internship opens another door of possible careers I can pursue. I will continue to work hard and do my best and learn as much as I can." Joseph ended this statement saying, "This is a wonderful experience and looks to be the beginnings of something great."

Senator Melconian, an alumna of Mount Holyoke College, is the first woman ever Majority Leader in the Massachusetts Senate. She began her political career as a legislative intern while she was in college, and is delighted to provide the same opportunity for high school or college students interested in public service.

"Joseph is a bright, talented young man with a promising future. The internship at my district office will allow him to explore the inner workings of a political office, in addition to enhancing his

* * *

THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE to purchase tickets for Jack Devine's retirement party on Sunday, September 12th, at Chez Josef in Agawam. Please call 789-0721 this weekend...

* * *

education," stated Senator Melconian.

* * *

Senator Melconian also welcomes Hernando Arrechea, a freshman at Springfield's High School of Science and Technology, as an intern at her district office. He, too, was recommended by the Pioneer Valley Student/Teachers Landscaping where he did community service. Other community services he's participated in include church activities, in which he organized a successful food and clothes drive. He has run in several marathons, which go to benefit cancer patients. Hernando has also participated in city park clean-ups.

As Hernando enters into high school, he plans to become a big brother to area youth in the Big Brother/Big Sister program and continue to be a positive role model. He also plans to play football for the school.

"I am very honored to have been given this opportunity," says Hernando, "and I'm very excited to be working with Senator Melconian. Hernando, who intends to pursue a career in politics, believes this internship is a great start in achieving that goal."

Hernando ended by saying, "As an intern at Senator Melconian's office, I will get hands-on experience in a busy political office. I am looking forward to the weeks ahead and I know that it will be a great educational training."

LEGAL NOTICE

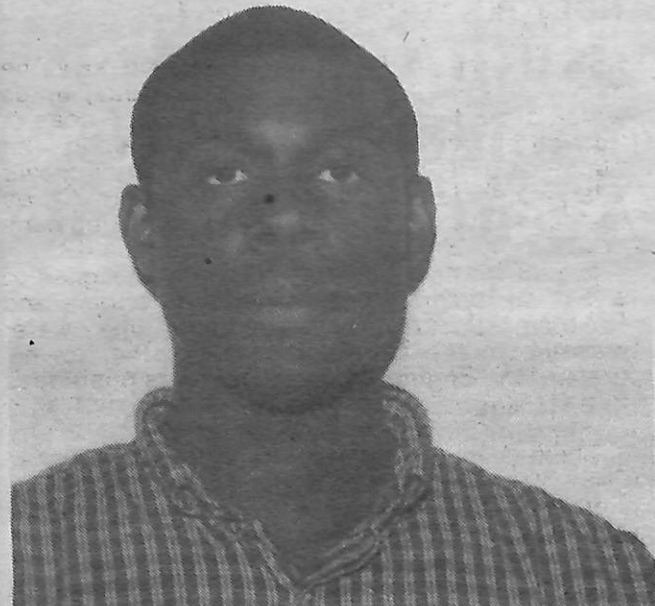
LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM
AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Agawam Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, September 9, 1999 at 7:30 PM in the Faolin Peirce Community Room, Agawam Police Station, 681 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of Responsive Trucking for work to be performed on Silver Street, subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

By Order of Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission
Published: September 2, 1999

— ADVERTISER NEWS —



SENATOR MELCONIAN'S newest interns: Joseph Wise, Jr. (above) and Hernando Arrechea (below).



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Honored By Her Peers...

Ruth Carr Bitzas Named Top Vets' Agent In The State

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

A lot has changed in the 17 years since former Town Manager Edward Caba appointed her as Agawam's Veterans' Agent. She's still one of a handful of women in an overwhelmingly male profession, but Ruth Carr Bitzas has seen a complete about-face in the attitude of her male colleagues over the years.

At first treated as an outsider, Mrs. Bitzas is this year's choice among her peers as the most outstanding veterans' agent in the state. She has the plaque to prove it. It's hanging on the wall in her office near a similar plaque presented in 1994 by Commissioner Thomas Hudner on behalf of the Massachusetts Department of Veterans' Services.

"This is a well-deserved honor for Ruth," according to Mayor Christopher C. Johnson. "She is a professional who truly loves the job and it shows. The excitement she brings to the job shows, and she got the award because she is the best veterans' agent in the state. That's it."

Johnson praised Mrs. Bitzas for making sure veterans have access to the state and federal benefits to which they are entitled before plugging them into the services offered through the town.

"Not only is that more lucrative for the veterans, it is better for us because it costs us nothing," Johnson said.

And, Johnson credits Mrs. Bitzas and Edward Squazza as the driving forces behind the campaign to have the first State Veterans' Cemetery located here.

Last year alone, Mrs. Bitzas' efforts saved the district \$258,199, most of which (\$190,172) went to Agawam residents. The remainder was divided between Southwick (\$61,835) and Granville (\$6,192).

When she attended her first professional conference, she knew she had a right to be there and be treated as an equal. Still, it took some time to win the respect of the male colleagues, who asked as to how she expected veterans to talk about their problems with a woman. But, Mrs. Bitzas' answer to that question served her well over the years and helped convince the skeptics of her commitment to veterans' issues and the welfare of the individual veterans.



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: Thomas J. Hudner, former State Commissioner of Veterans' Services; Thomas G. Kelley, State Commissioner of Veterans' Services; Ruth Carr Bitzas, Agawam Veterans' Agent; and Henry P. Bradley, President of the Massachusetts Agents Association.

"I said, 'Well, you talk to your mothers and I've raised four children who always came to me for help, too,'" Mrs. Bitzas recalled.

An Annual Honor...

At their latest professional conference in Provincetown in June, the members of the Massachusetts Veterans' Service Agents Association awarded her with the highest honor given annually to one agent within the Commonwealth "in recognition of outstanding performance as a Veterans' Agent."

"This means so much because it is from my peers," Mrs. Bitzas said. "There's no question there is a glass ceiling in my profession that is 95 percent male employees, and I found it a little difficult for the first few years to be recognized as an equal."

But being one of the few women in a male-dominated world is nothing new to Mrs. Bitzas. It's how she got the job in the first place — serving in the military was not a common choice of young women when she served in the Air Force from 1953 to 1965.

"I was the only woman veteran to apply, and I had some very good references as well as experience in managerial positions," Mrs. Bitzas said. "I found my niche here. After only a month or two on the job, I knew I had found a place to help other people."

Over the years, veterans have come to know, and spread the word about, how helpful she can be. "One of the greatest compliments I've had on

SEE BITZAS - Page 11...

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COLD/HOT WRAP

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COLD/HOT THERAPY



BITZAS - from Page 10...

this job came when I asked a veteran how they heard about the office for veterans' services, and I was told that this particular man had been drinking in a bar and talking about his problems when another man told him to, 'Go see that lady in Agawam, she helps people,'" Mrs. Bitzas remembered.

Last week, there was a basket of flowers on her desk from a veteran's widow who received a large check from the federal government for back benefits, and there will be a check in the mail every month for the rest of the woman's life, thanks to Mrs. Bitzas' persistence in chasing down every benefit owed to every veteran who comes through her door.

It was that persistence which she feels tipped the scales in her favor when she interviewed for the job 17 years ago. A pencil sketch done by her husband, Harry, is a daily reminder of the persistence she relies on to get results for her clients.

"When people come in here, I point to the drawing and they see a frog being swallowed by a crane. It says, 'Don't Ever Give Up!' And they don't get it until I tell them the whole point is that the frog may be half-swallowed, but he's got his hands around the crane's neck and he's choking the bird. The whole point is he's not going down without a fight, and I think it helps people to keep that in mind. We're not going down without a fight," Mrs. Bitzas said.

The Latest Fight...

The latest fight, one that occurs on an annual basis, is resisting a bill pending at the legislature that would make it possible for cities and towns to opt for part-time rather than full-time veterans' agents (regardless of population). Currently, communities with more than 12,000 residents must provide full-time veterans' services, and smaller communities have the option of joining with other communities to form a district to share the costs and benefits of having the services of a full-time agent.

"If this legislation passes, it would allow every city and town in Massachusetts to name a part-time agent. I call these 'part-time/can't find agents,'" Mrs. Bitzas said. "I cite the Western Hampden District as an example and cost-saving mechanism for several contiguous towns, like Agawam, Southwick, Granville, and Tolland, to form a district and furnish full-time availability of

a veterans' agent for our veterans," Mrs. Bitzas said. "My assistant and I have done several studies and made a color-coded map to show the legislative committee what the negative impact of this legislation will be for veterans in the Commonwealth."

Passage of the bill, which has been on the Massachusetts Municipal Association agenda for the last 10 years, would dilute services to the point where the department would be unworkable, Mrs. Bitzas said.

Another ongoing project is almost to the point of going to the Agawam Town Council for a funding request to complete a Veterans' Honor Roll for Agawam residents who joined the military during the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Civil War, World Wars I and II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War, Mrs. Bitzas said.

Agawam residents who joined the service during later campaigns will be added to the honor roll in years to come in order to ensure that all the names of people currently serving in the military will be added to the list.

"This is going to be a historical document for people for years to come," Mrs. Bitzas said. "The Veterans' Council and our Honor Roll Committee have raised as much money as we can; now it's up to the town. I have a design and I'm hoping to present it to the Town Council in the fall."

So far, the Honor Roll Committee has raised \$31,000 of the estimated \$70,000 it will cost for the honor roll. Starting in September, *The Agawam Advertiser News* will publish lists of the veterans' names to make sure everyone is included. Also, there is a book of the veterans' names available for perusal during working hours at Town Hall in the Veterans' Services office and also at the library.

Among the awards hanging in Mrs. Bitzas' office: WWII Commemorative Committee Award from Governor William Weld in 1995; Certificate of Longevity from the Massachusetts Veterans' Service Agents Association; Department of Defense WWII Commemorative Committee Award signed by Secretary of Defense William J. Perry; and the Outstanding Service Award from the Western Massachusetts Veterans' Services Association.

Mrs. Bitzas is a two-term past president of the Western Massachusetts Veterans' Services Association. The mother of four adult children and the grandmother of nine, she has been married to Harry Bitzas for 15 years. The couple resides in Agawam.

* * * * *

For photo coverage in The AAN, please call us at 786-7747 or 786-8137; however, please give us at least 72 hours' notice prior to your event...

* * * * *

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Fire Wise...

by Fire Chief David Pisano "Babyproofing" Your Home To Prevent Accidental Fires

The first 12 months of a baby's life is an exciting time for parents who will witness their baby's first smile, first laugh, and even its first steps. The next 12 months can be equally exciting, but also dangerous if safety isn't foremost in the parents' minds.

The Agawam Fire Department offers the following checklist to help "babyproof" your home:

1. Are matches and cigarette lighters kept out of children's reach or in a childproof container?
2. Do family members have a rule never to hold a small child while handling hot liquids, such as a cup of coffee or a pot of hot water?

3. Are hot liquids placed out of child's reach? Remember, young children will pull a tablecloth off a table.

4. Are small children not allowed to play in the kitchen? Not only could they burn themselves on a hot stove, but an adult could fall over them while removing a pan and carrying a heated substance from the stove.

5. Are electric outlet covers on all unused outlets?

6. Are electric cords in good condition and out of reach of children, especially in the teething stage?

7. Do family members know never to leave a small child unattended in the bathtub? Not only could this create a drowning problem, but a potential scald burn also.

8. Have you installed door stops and safety knobs to prevent children from opening forbidden doors? Remember to also use adaptable latches and locks for medicine cabinets and cabinets containing cleaners or other poisonous substances.

9. Additionally, consider the following:
• Every baby should be strapped in an approved infant seat when being transported in a vehicle.
• Children should also be strapped in when riding in a stroller.

• Dangerous tools should be kept out of children's reach.

• Wells, pools, and cisterns should be well-protected.

• Plastic bags should be discarded or inaccessible to small children.

• Firearms should be locked up, and ammunition should be locked away in a different location.

• More than 700 varieties of household plants and flowers are poisonous when eaten. Therefore, keep plants out of children's reach.

For further information, contact the Agawam Fire Department at 786-2662.

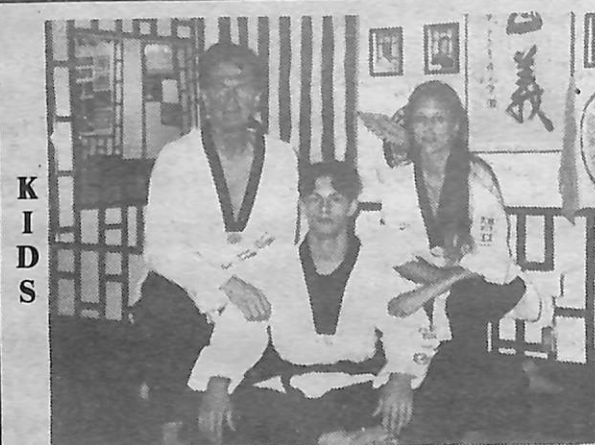
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Campaign '99

In Yarmouth On The Cape...

Kasparian Kicks Off Mayoral Campaign With FUN-RAISER

On Friday, August 20th, Candidate Kasparian kicked off his campaign for Mayor of Agawam on Cape Cod at Longfellows in Yarmouth. Kasparian's Eastern campaign coordinator, karaoke owner Ken Jackson, Jr., started the FUN-RAISER with a song sung by Frank Sinatra, "My Way," after which Kasparian addressed his many supporters.

Candidate Kasparian promised to have an open and honest government. He promises to pay off — that's right, pay off — on his campaign promises. No more back-room deals! His deals are right up front.

For a voting family of four, your family can earn up to \$60 in this election. You vote will earn \$5 for the primary, and \$10 for the main election. When, and only when, Abe is elected, come to his home ... you know where that is, it is his campaign headquarters, and pick up your stipend.

No more standing out in the cold holding signs, waving at passing cars, and listening to hollow promises from candidates telling you that either you or members of your family will have jobs working for them in their new administration. Now, EVERYONE will be a winner when Abe is elected! That's right, there is an extra bonus for getting Abe in, and here it is...

Abe promises a rebate on your real estate tax. Up to \$250 off your residential real estate tax bill! HOW, you ask? Abe will propose to the City Council, on January 2, 2000, a decrease in the residential real estate tax rate.

Of course, the City Council could reject this notion of giving tax relief to its citizens, and in that case, Abe will switch to plan B. Submit your tax abatement form to the city with the suggestion that your property has been overevaluated. Abe will ensure, through the tax assessor, Chet Nicora, that no petition for tax abatement be denied. "There is always more than one way to skin a cucumber," says Abe.

This is not a new idea; remember, not too long ago, Mayor Johnson had the same assessor approve a tax abatement for him on his newly-purchased commercial property in Feeding Hills. Why should the Mayor be the only person to take advantage of the great service of the city assessor's office? Everyone will be included in THIS payoff!

Whether you vote or not, tax relief is on the way! And this will be good for our economy. When you pick up your \$60, and the savings on your tax, you will be spending the money locally, driving the economic growth of our local businesses and keeping our citizens employed! "What a beautiful thing ... tax relief!" Abe remarked.

Some people may think that this is illegal, that this is some kind of voter fraud. However, we know voter fraud does not exist; to wit, the recent Ninth Hampden District race for State Representative. You know, the one where Dennis Murphy left the voters high and dry by leaving his term early, and took a job with a powerful power development company to become their lobbyist at the State Capital before the committee he chaired! "No conflict of interest here, you think?" Abe was heard to say.

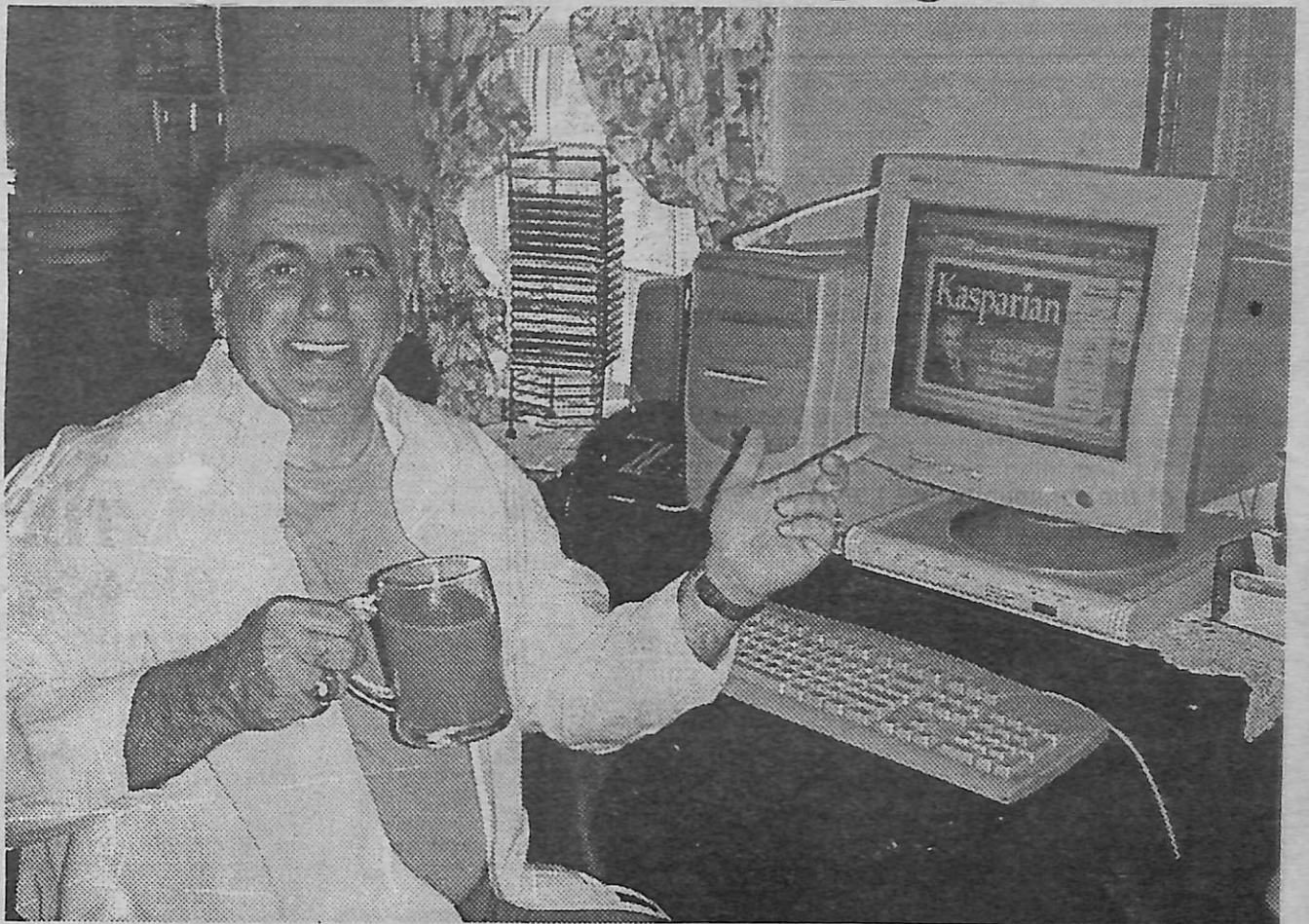
In the Democratic Primary, there were Republicans voting in that Democratic Primary; people who lived outside of the District voting in that primary; and, oh yes, some people even rose from the grave and said, "I back Jack!", and voted for him, too!

The Attorney General's office has decided not to pursue voter fraud. Why? Well, I guess because there was a Democratic Unity Party breakfast, and



ABE KASPARIAN (center), candidate for mayor of Agawam, held a FUN-RAISER at Longfellows in Yarmouth, Cape Cod recently. He was joined by supporters and vacationing Agawam residents at the affair.

Kasparian Announces Campaign Web Site



MAYORAL CANDIDATE Abe Kasparian is pleased to announce the formation of his campaign web site. The web site will outline information on his accomplishments and it will index his press releases. The web site will also carry pending legislation that Candidate Kasparian has drafted. The legislation, house docket number 5254, was submitted by Dan Keenan on behalf of then County Commissioner Abe Kasparian and compels elected and appointed officials to become accountable for their criminal actions while in office. Visit the web site at <http://www.angelfire.com/ma2/mayorabe>. While there, please feel free to email Candidate Kasparian and express your feelings about this election.

they decided to say, "Hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil."

So, there is no voter fraud, no matter how many people rise from the dead and cast their votes for their favorite candidate.

Abe went on to say that he does not intend to change any of the current staff at City Hall. All the present staff members will retain their positions and serve the city as they have in the past. Abe's reasoning is simple. The economic growth in the

city of Agawam has been outstanding because of the fine work of Agawam's current municipal workers.

Candidate Kasparian did state that he would institute a "Zero Tolerance" policy for all those involved with municipal government in terms of ethics and behavior.

For more information, contact Abe at his home at 789-4406.

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Campaign '99 - continued...

To Assist Working Parents...

Chmielewski Outlines Proposals

In a statement issued this week, Town Council candidate Stanley Chmielewski discussed his proposals to assist working parents:

"Today's complex lifestyle has introduced some new challenges for working parents. With career and financial demands, some couples — as well as single parents — find it necessary to maintain full-time employment while raising their families. This challenge can be expensive as well as difficult to achieve. I believe that we, the community, can offer some assistance to our fellow citizens.

"As your town councilor, I will propose a resolution asking the School Committee to begin the process to establish an all-day kindergarten in the schools. I believe in the concept and also believe that the program is long overdue.

"As your town councilor, I will also ask the Mayor to begin the formation of an after-school program. This program would be a cooperative effort between the schools and the Department of Parks and Recreation. This program can be comprised of a group of activities from an assisted homework program to one of reading, arts and crafts, and intramural sports activities. The programs would be open every day after school until the dinner hour.

"I also fully support the formation of a boys' and girls' club or something of a similar nature.

"It is well-documented that the leading cause of youth crime is inadequate supervision and the lack of activities that properly channel energy into productive areas. My years on the police force confirmed these findings, and many a 'good kid' found themselves in trouble because of the 'nothing to do' syndrome.

"With the demands placed on today's parents, I believe that it is the community's responsibility to assist the parents by providing constructive programs. I sincerely believe that we can accomplish these programs with the cooperation of municipal and private organizations working together.

"I acknowledge that the Town of Agawam is a leader in providing sporting programs for the youth of the community, but I believe we can do better. I believe that we can create a safe, productive, and fun environment for all the youth of our community.

"The investment in the youth of our community is a wise and sound one. They are our future and the future of the world. As your town councilor, I will strive to represent all the citizens of the community, and with your help and vote in November, we can achieve these goals," concluded Chmielewski.

Don Rheault Discusses Record Of Public Service

Mayoral candidate Don Rheault (pronounced "Rowe") says his record of public service as an elected official and as a volunteer in the community provides voters with a clear picture of what type of leadership and energy he would bring to the Mayor's office.

"Understandably, people sometimes question a candidate's motives for seeking public office. I want the voters to know that if I am elected, they can expect the same hard-working, accessible, fair, action-oriented person, committed to the betterment of our community that I have always tried to be. No surprises."

Rheault said he has worked hard as council president to restore decorum and professionalism to the City Council meetings and also thanks the Council for their efforts.

"I believe my experience as a councilor helped me learn that people can respect different viewpoints as long as they feel they've been given a fair opportunity to voice their own opinions."

Rheault believes experience is essential for any new Mayor who must quickly build bridges between themselves and opponents. "Political battles isolate and polarize people. I want people working together, solving problems, not creating them."

Rheault concluded by saying, "I know I haven't been everything to everybody, but I've tried to put forth an honest, sincere effort with Agawam's best interests at heart. I've learned some valuable lessons over the years. There's no better teacher than on the job experience."

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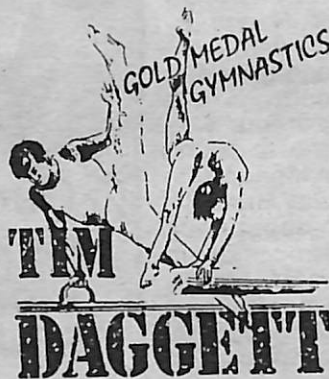


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Campaign '99 - continued...**Nancy Thompson Schedules Two Forums Open To All Residents**

Agawam City Councilor and candidate for Mayor Nancy E. Thompson has scheduled two forums that she will host which are open to all Agawam residents.

The first forum will focus on the Agawam Public School system and the education of Agawam's children from preschool through high school. This forum will be held in the Community Room of the Agawam Public Library on Wednesday, September 22nd at 7:00 p.m.

Refreshments will be served.

The education of Agawam's children will be a priority of the Thompson administration. Thompson has stated, "We have some very pertinent issues to address in our preschool program. I also want to revisit the idea of an all-day kindergarten program here in Agawam. Our High School not only needs to obtain accreditation, but it also needs to retain and sustain this. I hope that students, parents, teachers, administrators and any resident who is interested in the education of

Agawam's children will attend."

The second forum to be held will be to discuss issues and concerns related to all senior citizens residing in Agawam. Councilor Thompson stated that she hopes that dialogue will occur not only with senior citizens, but with their adult children as well. This forum will take place in the Community Building at Mansion Woods Condominiums on Suffield Street in Agawam on Saturday afternoon, October 2nd beginning at 2:00 p.m. Coffee and pastry will be served.

Councilor Thompson served as a member of the Agawam Council on Aging for eight years and was one of the founders of Friends of the Agawam Senior Center. As a registered nurse, she has worked with the elderly and their families in their homes, in hospitals, and in nursing homes.

As Mayor of Agawam, Councilor Thompson will provide expertise and focus on the elderly residents of Agawam and the issues pertaining to them.

Fundraiser For Rheault On Wed., September 22nd

Mayoral candidate Don Rheault (pronounced "Rowe") has finalized plans for his fundraiser dinner. The date is Wednesday, September 22nd at the Polish American Club from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

A ziti and meatball dinner will be prepared by "Bill" Farwell and assisted by a host of volunteers, according to campaign managers Pete & Korby Clark.

This will be a "casual dinner" in an informal setting where families and friends can enjoy a very inexpensive dinner and meet with Don.

If, for some reason, you do not receive tickets in the mail, they will be available at the door. The interest level has been very high and all are invited.

For more information, or if you want to help, call Pete or Korby Clark at 786-2113 or Rudy Altobelli at 786-1577.

Movie Fundraiser Announced By Nancy Thompson

The Thompson for Mayor Committee announces that it will host a movie fundraiser on Wednesday, September 15th. This family-oriented event will be held at the Agawam Family Cinemas on Suffield Street in Agawam.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and the movie will begin at 7:15 p.m. This event will provide an opportunity to meet with City Councilor Nancy E. Thompson, candidate for Mayor of Agawam.

Tickets include pizza, popcorn, soda, and a movie. Prices are as follows: adults, \$7.50; children under 12 years-old, \$4; family of four, \$20; and family of five, \$25. Possible movie to be shown: Star Wars, Episode 1 Phantom Menace; Inspector Gadget; Iron Giant; or Runaway Bride.

Thompson stated that, "This is an opportunity to meet with and hear from Agawam residents and at the same time, support and showcase a local small business here in our community."

A computer will also be available for people to browse the website: www.ThompsonForMayor.com.

Anyone interested in purchasing tickets may do so by mailing a check to: Thompson Committee, 19A Mansion Woods, Agawam, MA 01001-2364.

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Families

Spfld. Turnverein Hosts Its Annual "Oktoberfest"

by Kathy Shepard
Feature Editor

Despite bursts of rain and unseasonably cold temperatures, spirits were high at the Oktoberfest, held at the Springfield Turnverein at 176 Garden Street in Feeding Hills on Saturday, August 21st. The turnout was understandably lower than other years, but there was plenty of comraderie and cheer.

The event began at noon and tapered off near 11:00 p.m. The Melha Temple German Band played from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. and were highly praised for their stylish good taste and musical talent. Unexpectedly, Orange Crush backed out, but the Debi Derosé Band came to the rescue, playing rock and roll for those who wanted to boogie.

Dave Romeika, proprietor of Troll Valley Imports, was on hand offering a wide assortment of specialties and European and Bavarian gifts. Among the choices were Black Forest clocks, Swiss bells, Cuckoo clocks, German chimes, Bavarian hat pins, Russian amber jewelry, nesting dolls, Swiss music boxes, pewter collectibles, compact discs, and much more. This vendor displays only at German festivals.

The earlier Oktoberfests at the Turnverein (pronounced to rhyme with *stein*) were weekend affairs, starting on Friday evenings with a parade from the top of the hill, and running all day Saturday and all day Sunday. During the first one in 1972, they went through 132 kegs of beer.

They used to choose an Oktoberfest Queen, and Turnverein member Wilma Gillan of Feeding Hills recalled that the first queen chosen was Margaret Deso. Members Marty and Carol Lehberger of Feeding Hills remembered that there were from 10,000 to 12,000 people attending their early Oktoberfest and that shuttles brought people from the parking area, which was on South Street. Oktoberfest became a one-day event in 1997.

Bob Brock of Agawam has been voted chairman of Oktoberfest for three years. "It takes seven or eight meetings to plan everything, and my committee is great. They are the same people for the last few years, too, because they do a good job." Christa Strehl is secretary, Marty Lehberger is treasurer, Al LaGrange is in charge of beverages, and Jim Hadden handles security. Marianne Alden and Kurt Walthers are in charge of food, Ann Sawyer serves as assistant treasurer, Dick Holland handles the property, and Howie Sawyer is in charge of entertainment, such as raffles and the bands.

Turnout Good Considering Weather

Brock said, "The turnout was pretty good, considering the weather. We had to move everything inside, but we have an excellent committee, and somehow everything got done. We have an outstandingly superb group and they all helped."

SEE OKTOBERFEST - Page 16...



PREPARING FOR THE OKTOBERFEST FESTIVITIES at the Springfield Turnverein: Ursula Cabral, Wilma Gillan, Ruth Gillan, Carol Lehberger, and Jim Hadden. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



"WOULD YOU LIKE A PRETZEL?": Ann Sawyer (committee member), Finny Mainald, Harry Zimmerman, and Ann Maynard are all dressed-up in the appropriate garb at the Springfield Turnverein's Oktoberfest. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

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"TROLL VALLEY" displays German wares at German festivals. Advertiser News photos by Kathy Shepard.

OKTOBERFEST - from Page 15...

All sorts of foods were available, including bratwurst, knockwurst, kielbasa links, hamburgers, smoked pork chops, sauerkraut, potato pancakes, coffee, and many sweets. Imported and domestic beer could be purchased. It was a friendly, warm atmosphere, and the Turnverein has an interesting history.

The Turnverein was originally located in Springfield and moved to Agawam in 1968. A patriot named Friedrich Ludwig Jahn, also called Father Jahn, developed the first apparatus to be used in a gymnasium in the 19th century. Early German immigrants and followers of Jahn established the first gymnasium in this country in a school near Northampton. This inspired the birth of the Springfield Turnverein in 1855.

Father Jahn's method of organized scientific physical exercise epitomized his motto, "A Sound Mind in a Sound Body." Thus, the Springfield Turnverein became one of the foremost institutions in social, cultural, and physical education in this area.

When the Turnverein was moved to Agawam, the members maintained the ideal of providing families with a variety of programs, such as physical education, bowling, choral singing, German language classes, fishing, dinner dances, and other cultural endeavors. A brochure is available which lists the many group activities and events at the Turnverein and tells the background of this interesting organization.

Our office will be closed on Monday, Labor Day (September 6th); we will reopen on Tuesday, September 7th, at 6:30 a.m.

* * *



THE COMMITTEE RESPONSIBLE for this year's Oktoberfest at the Springfield Turnverein: Ann Sawyer, Howie Sawyer, Hal Read, Martin Lehberger, Richard Holland, Christa Strehl, Marianne Alden, and Bob Brock (chairman). Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

Free Computer Class Being Offered To Agawam's Senior Citizens

A free computer class will be offered at the Agawam High School for 10 senior citizens who are looking to re-enter the workforce. Classes will begin in September on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Classes will be held for eight weeks. Another series will begin in the spring for eight weeks for a new group of senior students.

The content of the course will concentrate around Microsoft Office Applications. The applications will include Microsoft Word, Excel, Access and Powerpoint, Desktop Publishing, and Internet Exploration.

Classes are being funded through a Bell Atlantic Grant.

The goals and long-term objectives of this endeavor are:

- * Teaching and workforce experience for Agawam High School students.
- * Basic computer skills training for elders involved in, or returning to, the workforce.
- * Develop intergenerational mentoring relationships between teenagers and elders. "Students and Elders in a Computer Training Program," this is called SECT. The training is specifically designed to teach and instruct seniors in computer skills.

The collaborators in this effort are:

The Agawam High School — The Agawam High School Career Center is presently involved in its fourth year of participation in the school to career initiative.

The Agawam Council on Aging — The Agawam Senior Center, a municipal city department, has been serving the educational, financial, social, professional, and recreational needs of the elders since 1970.

Career Point — Career Point, a One-Stop Career Center serving Hampden County, develops a strong workforce by improving the skills of employees and job-seekers. They expand career opportunities for citizens through economic development.

By combining existing community resources and technology, SECT will be able to create an exciting, intergenerational course that benefits high school students and the local community equally. Not only will SECT be preparing both high school students and elders with the necessary skills to succeed in today's workplace, it will also be responding to the greater economic needs of Hampden County and beyond.

Please contact Executive Director Richard Mundo if you qualify at 789-3838.

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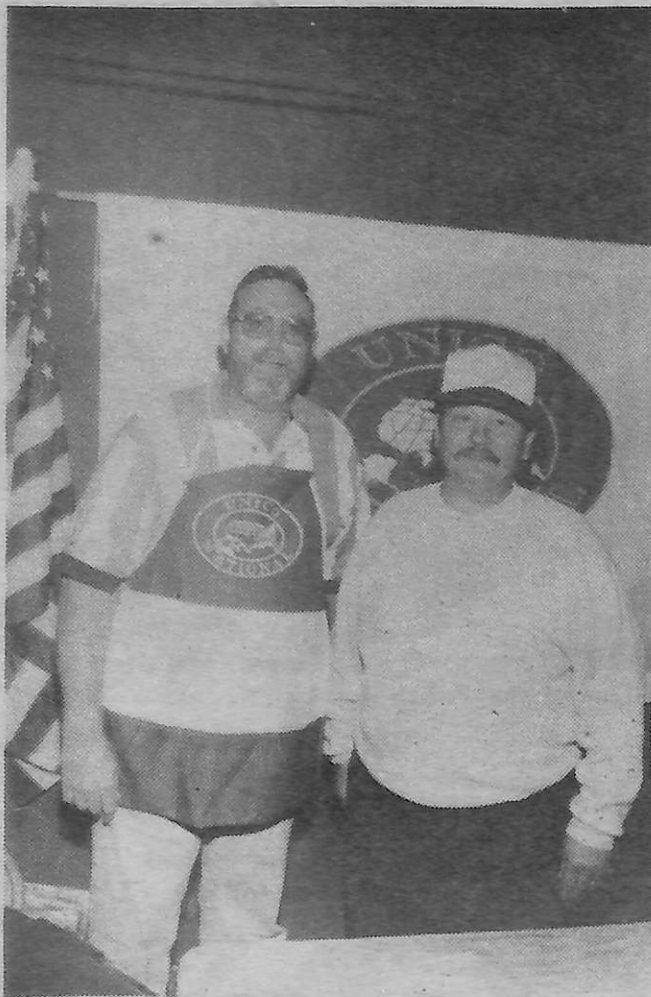
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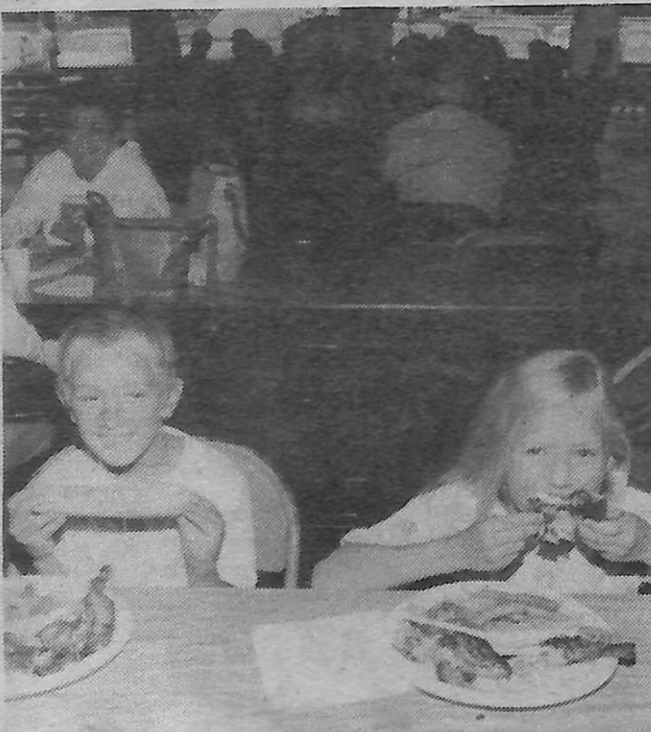
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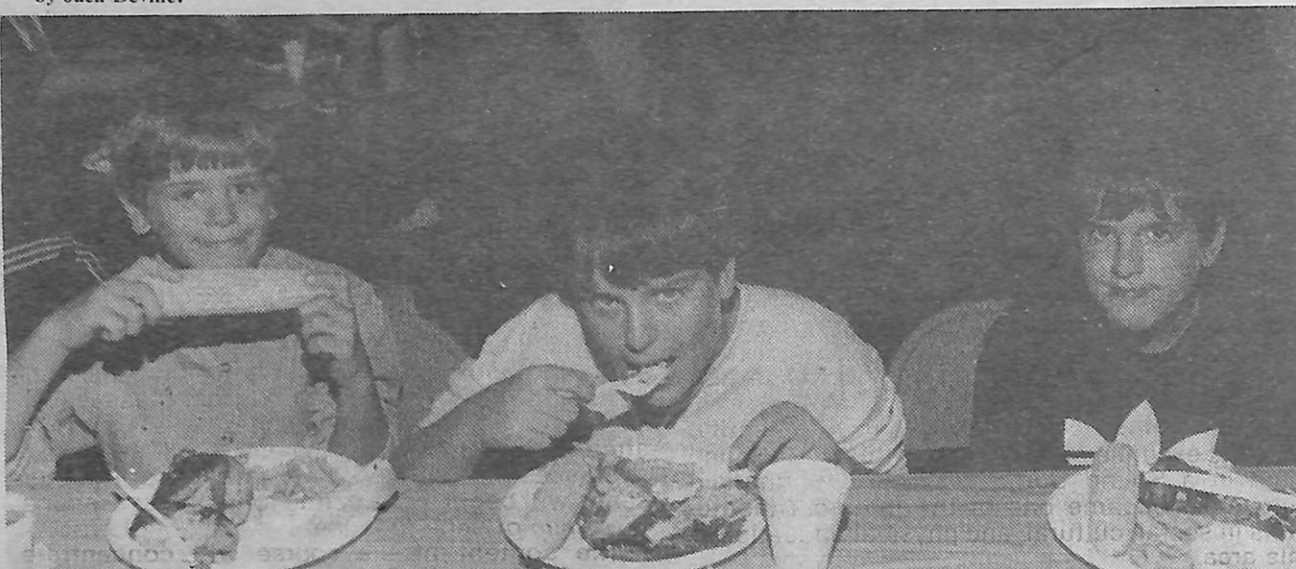
UNICO Holds Chicken Bar-B-Que...



IN TOP PHOTO: UNICO members Joe Conte and Dennis Marchetto at the annual Bar-B-Que at the Polish American Club in Feeding Hills. IN PHOTO BELOW: Danny and Brie Bobecky prove that corn-on-the-cob and chicken are finger-lickin' good. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



THE AGAWAM CHAPTER OF UNICO NATIONAL held its 37th annual Chicken Bar-B-Que on Sunday, August 22nd, at the Polish American Club in Feeding Hills. Once again, no one cried "fowl" thanks to the efforts of the UNICO chefs (pictured above). Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



ENJOYING THEIR MEALS: Alex, Kyle, and Justin Mathieu at Agawam UNICO's Chicken Bar-B-Que. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Agawam Friendly Travelers Slate Trip To Atlantic City (September 12th-14th)

Join the Agawam Friendly Travelers for an Atlantic City getaway — three days on "The Boardwalk" — at Bally's Park Place Casino Hotel, September 12-14, 1999.

With a 7:30 a.m. departure, we are bound for the excitement of Atlantic City (with comfort and meal stops en route). Our destination is Bally's Park Place Casino Hotel and Tower on "The Boardwalk."

Upon arrival, we will each receive a \$30 coin bonus. We'll then have the rest of "today" and "tomorrow" to enjoy the hotel facilities and try our luck in the casino!

For a change of pace, try shopping at the nearby Ocean One Mall. On Tuesday, we will have free time before departure in the afternoon. On the

way home, there will be a break for dinner (on your own) as well as a comfort stop. The arrival home will be at 9:00 p.m.

This tour includes round-trip motorcoach transportation; deluxe accommodations at Bally's Park Place; \$30 coin bonus; baggage handling (of one bag per person); and all taxes and gratuities (including the driver).

The cost per person is \$159 for double or triple occupancy, and \$229 for single occupancy.

For further information, please call Nellie Mathias at 786-9093, or stop by the ticket booth at the Agawam Senior Center, which is open daily from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

This trip is open to the general public, and a deposit will hold your reservation.

Ag. Senior Center's Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, September 6th: Senior Center closed (Labor Day).

Tuesday, September 7th: Salisbury steak, cheese baked potatoes, green beans, whole wheat bread, peaches.

Wednesday, September 8th: Stuffed cabbage, mashed potatoes, corn, whole wheat bread, jello with fruit.

Thursday, September 9th: Chicken pot pie, tossed salad, wheat rolls, chocolate pudding.

Friday, September 10th: Clam chowder, tuna salad sandwich, broccoli salad, peaches.

(Menu subject to change without notice.)

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— ADVERTISER NEWS —



Tag Sale/Car Wash/Bake Sale/Raffle

The Agawam Senior Games Athletes will hold a tag sale, car wash, bake sale, raffle, and Chinese auction at the Agawam Senior Center on Saturday, September 11th, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The tag sale items will also feature new items such as balloons, kites, Halloween items, Bubble Fish, etc. There will be grab bags, coffee, donuts, and many irresistibly tasty items on the bake table.

Come visit with the athletes, have your car washed while you browse at the tag sale, have some coffee and donuts, and participate in the raffle and Chinese auction. This is a very special raffle of an afghan crocheted for ASGA by Dian Curran's mom, and a treasure box done by the famous postage stamp artist Jim Butman.

Mr. Butman has postage stamp paintings in the Smithsonian and in the Ripley Museums worldwide. This postage stamp box is a valuable item and will only get more valuable as time goes on. Whoever wins the raffle will surely own a treasure.

The Chinese auction consists of handmade crocheted aprons, Hummel stationery, welcome signs, etc.

Our car washes continue to draw many people because the athletes are careful to do a super job on all of the cars. We are looking forward to seeing many townspeople on September 11th.

For more information, call Vi Presz at 786-3164 or Angelo Polumbo at 786-5648.

Trip To Mohegan Sun

The Agawam Senior Games Athletes will sponsor a trip to Mohegan Sun on Monday, September 20th.

The price will be \$16 and will include gratuities. Mohegan Sun will offer a \$10 meal ticket and a \$10 free play on the big wheel.

We are looking forward to a full bus and a day of fun with our friends. To obtain a ticket, please call Edie Chiba at 786-5539 or Vi Presz at 786-3164, or obtain a ticket at the Senior Center.

We will leave the Senior Center at 8:00 a.m., arriving at Mohegan Sun at approximately 9:30 a.m. We will leave Mohegan Sun at 4:00 p.m. sharp, arriving home at approximately 5:30 p.m.

All tickets must be paid for a week in advance, or the organization reserves the right to resell the ticket.

Please remember to patronize your local businesses - AAN!!!

* * *



PICTURED ABOVE are the UNICO "grillmeisters" who made sure that no one went away hungry after the August 22nd Chicken Bar-B-Que at the Polish American Club in Feeding Hills. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



"LET'S MAKE SURE THERE'S ENOUGH DRESSING ON THE SALAD!": UNICO members Bob Rossi, Dick DiLullo, Dick Pisano, and Bill Mezzetti at the Chicken Bar-B-Que.

Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Check our classified ads

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WALK OF FAITH

READ: 2 Corinthians 5:1-11

We walk by faith, not by sight. —2 Corinthians 5:7

Constructed to give people the illusion of walking on air, "The Walk of Faith" is a platform of laminated glass at the top of a 385-foot tower in Blackpool, England. An Associated Press photo showed a woman at the edge of the invisible walkway, fists clenched against her face, trying to summon the courage to take a step. She had been told the platform was safe, but she was still afraid.

Sometimes we feel that way about our circumstances. Perhaps a serious health problem has caused us to question the power and the presence of God.

It's encouraging to note that Paul's familiar words "We walk by faith, not by sight" (2 Cor. 5:7) occur in his discussion about being "absent from the body and . . . present with the Lord" (v.8).

He used a powerful metaphor, calling our body an earthly house that's being destroyed, yet he said we have a heavenly building made by God. He spoke of groaning in our earthly frailty and longing for our heavenly home. He concluded that no matter what circumstances we face, we should make it our goal to please the Lord (v.9).

Our walk of faith can be challenging and sometimes scary. But because God is powerful and present, we can step out in confidence today. —DCM

*The Lord wants us to walk by faith,
Because our eyes can be deceived;
And even though our path may fade,
God's Word can always be believed. —Sper*

IT IS BETTER TO WALK WITH GOD BY FAITH
THAN TO GO ALONE BY SIGHT.

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Jim And Lisa Clark Announce Birth Of Baby Girl, Conery

The Family Life Center at Mercy Hospital was the setting for the birth of Conery Michele Clark on June 1, 1999. She weighed eight pounds, 10 ounces, was 21½ inches long, and has lots of auburn hair and big blue eyes.

Conery is the fourth child of Jim and Lisa (Losito) Clark of East Longmeadow.

She was welcomed home by her sisters, Kelley and Brenna, and by her big brother, Gerard.

The proud grandparents are Mike and Claire Losito of Shoemaker Lane, Agawam, and Dorothy Clark of Simsbury, CT.



CHRISTOPHER JOHN MORASSI

Michael And Anna Morassi Announce Birth Of Son

Michael and Anna (Mottola) Morassi announce the birth of their son, Christopher John.

Christopher was born at Baystate Medical Center on Thursday, July 22nd, at 5:58 p.m. He weighed seven pounds, five ounces, and was 21½ inches long.

Welcoming him home were his proud brother, Anthony, 9, and proud sister, Marissa, 6.

He is grandchild number five for John and Rosalie Morassi of Agawam, and the third for Sam and Elvira Mottola of Westfield.

Greater Spfld. PFLAG Mtgs. At Ag. Congregational

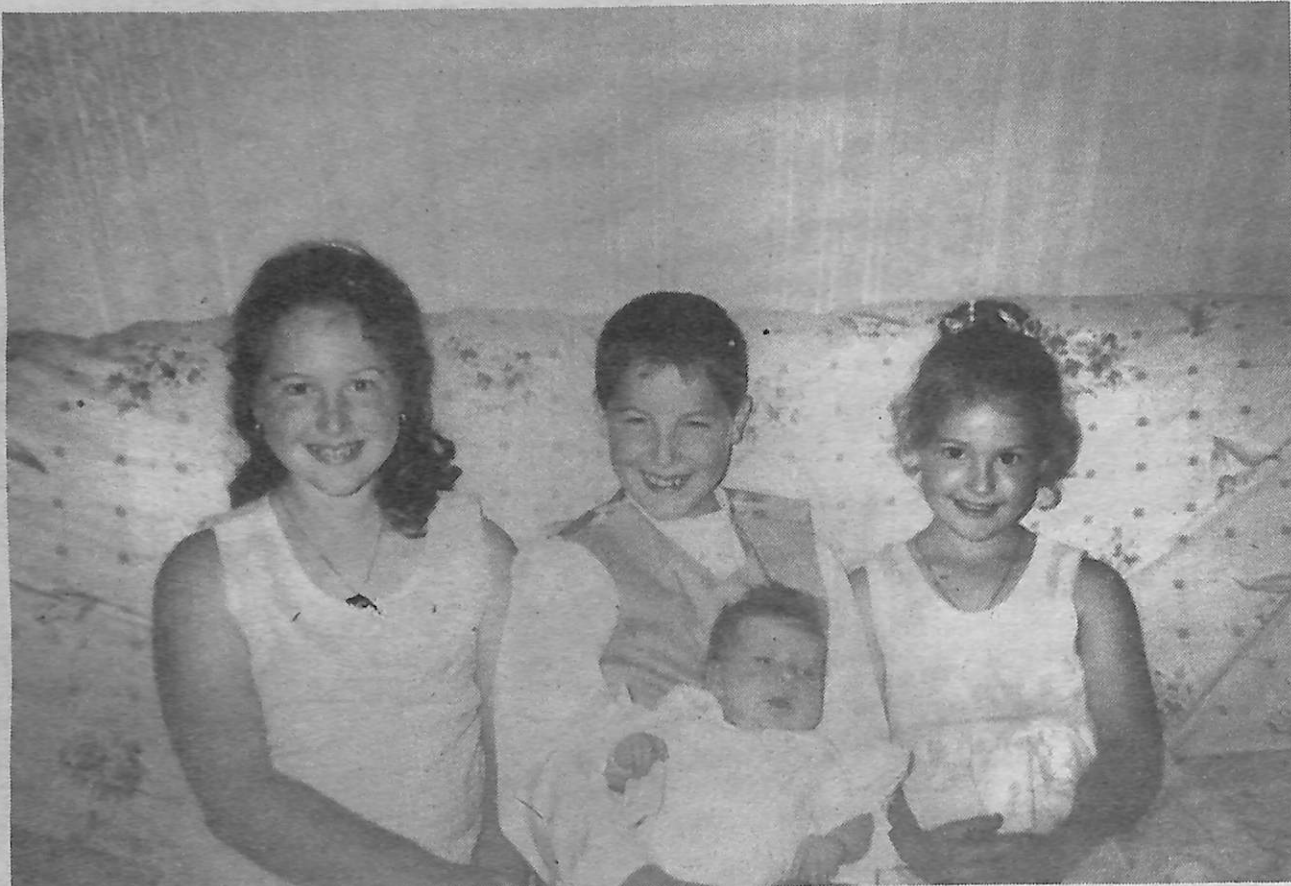
The Greater Springfield PFLAG (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) will meet twice during September at the Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main Street, Agawam. The church is handicapped-accessible.

On Wednesday, September 8th, the Executive Committee meeting will be held from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., and a support meeting will take place from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

On Wednesday, September 29th, the regular program and support meeting will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. The guest speaker will be Peg Gage, the PFLAG Northeast Regional Director. All meetings are free and open to all who are interested.

PFLAG is committed to aiding and affirming all gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered persons, their families, friends, and allies. We offer information, support, and advocacy to empower those who are oppressed, to enlighten an ill-informed public, and to secure full civil rights for sexual minorities.

Our meetings provide an opportunity for free expression and dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity. For further information or support, call Don at 783-7709, Grace at 789-4330, or Beth at 732-3240. Don't hesitate to call.



CONERY MICHELE CLARK, who was born on June 1, 1999, is pictured with her sisters, Kelley and Brenna, and her brother, Gerard.

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German Family Thanks Everyone For Support

by Kathy Shepard
Feature Editor

In early June, Benjamin & Domenik arrived here from Germany with their parents, Christa & Herbert Hehs. Mr. Hehs works in power generation for the Berkshire Power Plant with A.B.B. and hopes to return to Germany in October. Until that time, the family will reside at Regency Condominiums. They have made friends with some town residents and were welcomed at the Octoberfest at the Springfield Turnverein two weeks ago by several persons of German background.

Jackie Weiss, who works in the Regency office, has enjoyed the friendship of the Hehs family and was impressed with the appreciated they showed toward one of the programs through school - the English Language Support Program. Often, resources available in the schools can be taken for granted, but Benjamin & Domenik were enthusiastic and have shown much progress.

Mrs. Hehs said, "I have heard them talking in English to each other sometimes, and they were happy and excited after their days at school."

Benjamin & Domenik enjoyed the program and looked forward to attending. Neither spoke any English upon arrival to the United States. At registration for school at Phelps, Susan Mutti met them and provided services and at that time, she recommended the summer program, called ESL for English Language Support Program. Mrs. Mutti said that Mrs. Hehs was cooperative and was glad that the experience was possible.

The program started July 26th and ran through August 13th. The sessions ran Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, and Fridays were full-day sessions to allow time for field trips. The group met at Robinson Park School and parents were responsible for transportation. The Massachusetts Department of Education provided the funding, and Mrs. Mutti coordinated the program and taught each day. There were two assistant teachers present each day, as well - Dina Ciarmatori and Jennifer Dorval.

Goals Of The Program

The goal of the summer language support program is to encourage the use of students' English listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills constantly. Mrs. Mutti structured activities that encouraged verbal communication in relaxed and comfortable settings, using creative activities such as oral storytimes, cooking experiences, crafts, movement and music, library programs, picnic time, special visitors, daily com-



FRONT ROW: Benjamin & Domenik Hehs hold their certificates after participating in the English Language Support Program. **BACK ROW:** Christa & Herbert Hehs (the boys' parents) with Jackie Weiss, manager of the Regency Condominiums. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

puter skill lessons, videos which enhance the topics of study, and three full-day field trips.

Mrs. Hehs shared with the group during one class, and she also accompanied Benjamin & Domenik on their three field trips: Mystic Aquarium, Mount Tom Reservation, and Look Park. Together, they enjoyed outdoor activities such as hiking, fishing, collecting wood around the lake, and having picnics.

Mrs. Mutti said, "I enjoyed meeting the Hehs family and working with them. Mrs. Hehs was very supportive of our program and of her sons' efforts and commitment. I told Benjamin and Domenik to keep listening to the language and eventually it will come together. These times may seem difficult now, but they will look back someday and it will all mean something in years to come."

Domenik & Benjamin agreed that communication came more easily during sports. They made friends through the activities. Domenik played centerfield in the baseball games, and there is one English phrase they both remember well; "No

running at the pool." The Hehs family has spent many hours by the swimming pool, another way they have been able to communicate with new friends.

The family's home in Germany is in a small town called Eggingen, which is about 10 miles north of the Swiss border. Christa Hehs learned English in a private language school in Heidelberg, and Herbert Hehs learned the language in college in Mannheim, which is about 50 miles south of Frankfurt.

Being away from one's own country and language can be difficult for both adults and children. Mrs. Hehs is especially grateful to Mrs. Mutti and her assistants, as well as the Agawam Schools, for providing the English Language Support Program, and the Hehs family members all feel that there was a great benefit in participating in the experiences. They will return to Germany with many fond memories of their adventures in America.

* * * * *

Applications Available For Agawam Lioness Club's Craft Fair

The Agawam Lioness Club will hold an Annual Holiday Craft Fair at St. Thomas School, West Springfield (formerly held by the St. Thomas Catholic Women's Club), on Saturday, November 6th, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Applications are now available for area crafters by contacting Ann at 789-0015.

Proceeds from this Craft Fair will support the many projects of the Agawam Lioness Club.

For photo coverage in The AAN, please call us at 786-7747 or 786-8137; however, please give us at least 72 hours' notice prior to your event...

* * * * *

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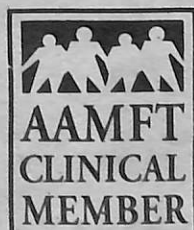
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Got A Hair, Nail, Or Beauty Problem? Send Us A Note, And We Will Answer It In Our Column...

Question: How should I care for all the different types of hair in my family?

Answer: Through the years, your hair sees major changes. Recognizing these changes will help you to understand what you need to do to stay looking great.

As a baby, your hair starts out fine and wispy, and tends to end up that way again in your later years. In between, our body cycles change from decade to decade and seem to show up in a major way through our hair and scalp.

I decided to take you "Through the Years" and dedicate the next few articles on hair tips for all ages. Remember, men and women can benefit from the information I will be sharing with you.

PART ONE:

Children have delicate skin and hair and it needs to be treated that way. Paul Mitchell has formulated Baby Don't Cry shampoo for this type of hair on young children and adults with baby-fine hair.

It contains Alpha bisabolol: Chamomile, used for its soothing capabilities, Echinace: Coneflower, which soothes the skin and scalp, and NMF Complex: a scientific blend of naturally occurring moisture that is present in skin and hair which is easily removed naturally every day through use of washcloths and mild cleansers.

Sunscreens and UV sunglasses and hat are a must for all children to protect them from the harmful UV rays.

Teens can be troubled with oily hair at this time of life due to puberty changes. Hair is as healthy as it will ever be. Daily washing is probably necessary, but avoid hard scrubbing as this will only stimulate the oil glands.

Work up a good lather and work through the hair and scalp, then rinse well. Paul Mitchell Shampoo Two is a deep-cleaning shampoo for oil hair, yet gentle enough to use daily without causing dryness.

It contains Awapuhi, which eliminates dulling mineral deposits and adds moisture and shine to the hair. Chamomile extract, which is soothing to the scalp and slows down unnecessary production of sebum (oil), and Citric Acid, to maintain the hair's PH balance.

Hair should be left natural through these years, but if you feel a need to express yourself, try temporary rinses, mousses, or brush-in products for a new look that won't be permanent.

Twenties can be a life-changing period. There are college graduations, new careers, new babies, and marriages. You may feel a real need for a change in your looks. This is a good time for a stylish haircut.

Keep in mind you want something that will fit your lifestyle and personality. Your hair type and ability to keep up your new style should also be considered. Your hair may not be as oily as it was, so a change in your shampoo may be needed and maybe a light conditioner added.

Your hair stylist is the best person to talk to before making your change. We find that if you're looking for a different color, a tone on tone highlight is a simple and easy change with minimal upkeep.

We invite you to stop by and see Jennifer. She has just finished another training semester with the Paul Mitchell team and has fresh new ideas for you.

Please look for part two of "Through the Years" next week.

A thought for a smile: painting faces for Halloween!

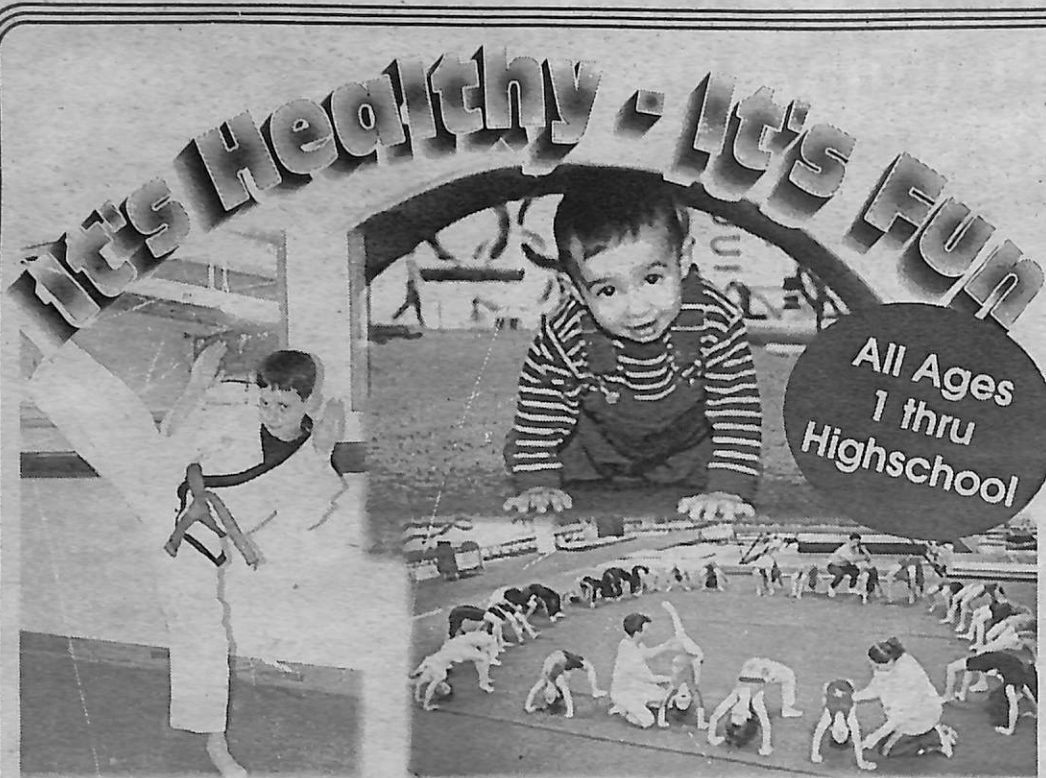
Remember ... *Beauty is our business!*

**Tag Sale Slated
For Sept. 18th At
Quail Run Estates**

A tag sale has been scheduled for Saturday, September 18th, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Quail Run Estates, 50 Cardinal Drive (off Cooper Street), Agawam.

This event will be held rain or shine, and the public is cordially invited to attend.

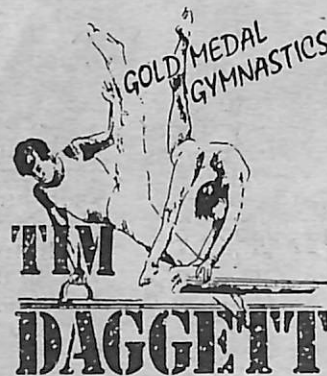
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Happy 75th Birthday To "Toastmasters"

by Kathy Shepard
Feature Editor

Toastmasters will celebrate its diamond Jubilee (75 years in existence). The Annual Convention was August 18th through 21st in Chicago. Don Prisby of Agawam, recently elected president of the Agawam/Westside Toastmasters Club, wants to increase public awareness of the purpose of Toastmasters and also to include more members.

Toastmasters was originally started for business people to give eloquent toasts at dinner and such functions. Now, Toastmasters concentrates on helping people get up and overcome their fears of speaking. The Agawam/Westside Toastmasters Club meets every second and fourth Thursday from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at the Country Estates meeting room on Suffield Street in Agawam. Admission is free and open to the public. Refreshments are served.

Most people who have joined Toastmasters intended to get help with speaking in front of groups, but have found other benefits. Their creativity increases, their performance at work often improves, and they experience more confidence. The benefits spread to their personal and professional lives, according to Prisby.

Prisby especially enjoys "tapping into creativity" he did not know he had. "There is affirmation from the positive reactions and responses of the group. There is no pressure. A person can go at their own pace or not participate at all if that's their choice. Toastmasters offers structure and speech evaluations in a relaxed atmosphere that is also, well, a lot of fun.

"We currently have 15 members in the Agawam/Westside Club, and we want to expand to have 20," he noted.

"Humorous Speech Contest"

On September 9th, Toastmasters is presenting a Humorous Speech Contest at 7:00 p.m. at the Country Estates meeting room. Every six months they hold some kind of speech contest, which might be serious, humorous, or with some other theme. The talk should be kept to five to seven minutes in length. Members can sign up in advance.

The winner goes on to the next area level contest; there are several clubs in Springfield. The winner at that level goes to the divisionals for the Northeast area and the presentations become more challenging as the talks are given to larger and larger groups. One must be a member to compete, but anyone is welcome to come and see the competitions. Additional information can be obtained by calling 789-1136 or 786-0887.

An upcoming meeting promises to be especially fun on October 14th, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. This will be held at the Agawam Library in the Community Room and is a special meeting "just for fun and open to the public." The meeting is to commemorate their Jubilee and the theme of the speeches will be "nostalgia - the way things were."

Toastmasters is a great way to meet new friends, Prisby noted. The meetings are informal and the people are friendly and have many interesting experiences to share from their professional lives or through their educations. Toastmasters International has over 8,600 clubs in 69 countries. There are well over 175,000 members worldwide. Toastmasters provides an enjoyable way to enhance already-existing skills while meeting new friends and having a good time.



MR. & MRS. RICHARD C. MACIASZEK

Lori J. Spiro Becomes Bride Of Richard C. Maciaszek

Lori J. Spiro and Richard C. Maciaszek exchanged marriage vows in a recent ceremony at Storowton Meeting House in West Springfield.

Parents of the bride are Barbara and Lou Spiro of Feeding Hills. The bridegroom's parents and Mary and Konstanty Maciaszek of Chicopee.

Ellen Wright attended the bride as matron of honor. Norman Soule served the bridegroom as best man.

The bride is a graduate of Westfield State College. She is a teacher at Fairview Veterans Memorial Middle School in Chicopee. The bridegroom is a graduate of Springfield Technical Community College. He is an HVAC installer for New England Mechanical Company.

Auditions Slated For Riverside Park's 1999's "FrightFest"

Creative talent will have the chance to bring terror scares and frightful family fun to life this fall. FrightFest is coming to New England and Riverside, a member of the Six Flags family located in Agawam, is announcing auditions for the upcoming Halloween season.

The Park is looking to cast almost 200 enthusiastic people in a variety of roles. Positions include actors, actresses, puppeteers, technicians, dancers, costume characters, make-up artists, scenic artists, and builders. Among many of the haunted attractions and midway mayhem, Riverside has a large new terror attraction in store that promises to terrify.

"We're also excited to have the return of many of our original live Halloween-themed shows that have proven to be a great time for the entire family," said Eric Boucher, the show's creator and Assistant Manager. "Halloween shows is where I got my start at Riverside, and we're proud to offer this fun experience to local performers and enthusiasts."

Auditions will be held at the Riverside Human Resources Center, located at 1756 Main Street in Agawam (right across from Riverside Park) on Saturday, September 11th. Actors and actresses will be seen from 1:00-4:00 p.m. and dancers should arrive around 4:30 p.m.

All applicants are encouraged to bring a resume if available. Dancers should be prepared to learn a short movement combination. Character actors should be prepared to do a cold reading.

All candidates must be enthusiastic, energetic, and have outgoing personalities. Applicants must be at least 16 years-old and available all weekends in October.

For more information, call the Riverside Entertainment Department at (413) 786-9300, ext. 3322.

Crafters Sought For December 4th Fair

Applications are being accepted from crafters for a holiday craft fair to be held on Saturday, December 4th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Greenleaf Community Center on Parker St. (behind the Sixteen Acres Library).

Cost per space is \$25. This fair is being sponsored by the Targets Drum and Bugle Corps of Springfield, 1999 Eastern MA Class B Champions.

For an application or more information, please call 789-2061.

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Senior Ctr. Tag Sale



JOAN LINNEHAN AND LUCILLE FLYNN (Joan's mom) at the August 18th tag sale held at the Agawam Senior Center. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



THE AUGUST 18TH TAG SALE was held to benefit the programs and activities of the Agawam Senior Center. Pictured above are Rosemary Klundt and her friend, Mary. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



JUST "TAGGING ALONG" at the Senior Center Tag Sale: Donna McKinley, Lynn Bright, Gert Duval, Nellie Mathias, and Claire Barry. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Agawam Council On Aging Has Information On Food Stamp Program For The Elderly

When you are on a fixed income, it's often hard to make ends meet. Sometimes you just can't pay all the bills and still have enough money to buy food.

That's when food stamp benefits can really make a difference. People receiving these benefits are given their own account and special "charge" card that allows them to access money to pay for food. The program is available to everyone who qualifies for it.

Like unemployment checks, food stamp benefits provide extra buying power just when you need it most. But many people don't take advantage of the Food Stamp Program because they don't think that they qualify.

There are many misunderstandings about who can get food stamp benefits. Some people think that you need to be on welfare. Some believe that you can't get food stamp benefits if you are receiving Social Security or SSI benefits, or if you own your home or a car.

The fact is that you don't have to be on welfare to get food stamp benefits. And you may be eligible even if you work. It all depends on your income, your resources (property and money saved), and your household size and composition. If you meet certain guidelines in these areas, you may be eligible to receive food stamp benefits. And only a professional food stamp worker can tell that for sure.

How can you find out more about the Food Stamp Program and learn if you may be eligible? Call the Agawam Council on Aging or stop in for some easy-to-read information about food stamps for the elderly.

You can also call Project Bread's free Food-Source Hotline at 1-800-645-8333 Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. for a confidential food stamp eligibility screening.

Don't wait. Find out about food stamps today. They really are a smart move in tough times.



Mary Ann

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- Graduate, Dance Masters of America

- MARY ANN

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& Jazz Class

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Dance classes held at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main Street, Agawam.

Church News

News And Notes From F.H. Congregational

You are welcome to join with us at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church, which is located at 21 N. Westfield Street in Feeding Hills. Our Sunday morning service of worship begins at 9:30 a.m. and will include the Service of Holy Communion.

Rev. Donaldson's sermon is entitled "Winning Over Stress." The Scripture reading will be Job 30:16-31. Sue Boisvert will be Lector.

Children are invited to attend worship with adults. Nursery care will be provided for the very young.

* * *

On Sunday, September 12th, we will have our monthly collection for the Open Pantry. Desserts are also needed for the Pantry on Wednesday, September 8th.

If you can make a dessert, please have it at the church by 12:00 noon on that day.

* * *

On September 12th, we will also welcome the start of this year's Sunday School classes. The Board of Christian Education is Y2K ready and well-prepared to guide your children into the next millennium!

* * *

The Board of Christian Education has plans in the works for a trip to Plimoth Plantation on Saturday, September 11th. A visit to the replica of the Mayflower will be included.

Travelers will leave from the church at 8:00 a.m. Tickets will cost \$14 for adults, and \$8.50 for students up to grade 12.

Please call the church office or use the sign-up sheet to let us know you will be attending.

* * *

Want to voice your opinion? Join our choir! You will be greeted by a chorus of welcoming friends.

This is a great opportunity to critique the hymn choices before each Sunday service. You are also guaranteed a reserved seat in the exclusive section up front each and every Sunday.

Best of all, membership is free!

* * *

Operation Friendship will host a Roast Beef Dinner at this church on Saturday, September 11th. Dinners will be served from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. and will include beverage, roast beef and gravy, mashed potatoes, vegetable, tossed salad, bread and butter, and dessert.

Meals are \$7.50 for adults and \$4 for children under age 12. Children under age five eat for free.

Please call Sharon at 786-8743 or Debby at 786-9780 for reservations.

* * *

On the calendar:

Friday, September 3rd: 7:00 p.m., Radio Club.

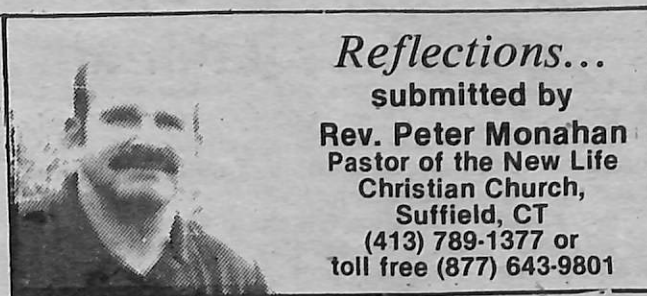
Sunday, September 5th: 9:30 a.m., Communion
Sunday; 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m., Church of Redemption.

Tuesday, September 7th: 7:00 p.m., A.A.; 7:30 p.m., Council.

Wednesday, September 8th: Parish Cupboard (Open Pantry) desserts needed; 7:00 p.m., Choir.

Thursday, September 9th: 7:00 p.m., A.A.

ADVERTISER NEWS



Reflections...

submitted by

Rev. Peter Monahan
Pastor of the New Life
Christian Church,
Suffield, CT
(413) 789-1377 or
toll free (877) 643-9801

Living A Pleasing Life...

There is an ugly rumor running around about God. The rumor is that God is out to get us. It pictures God as just waiting for the opportunity to pummel us if we get out of line, or at the very least take away our fun. Nothing could be further from the truth. Jesus said, "Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete."

Contrary to what some people might think, God is not out to get us. That doesn't mean that God has suddenly forgotten about sin. The wages of sin is still death. God hates sin; but when we stop and think about it, who doesn't? Who thinks that sin, like robbing, cheating, or betraying ourselves and others, is a good thing?

God hates sin, but He doesn't hate sinners. God does not want anybody to live or die as sinners. He never has, and He never will. Throughout history, again and again God has called out through His prophets, "Let Me transform your lives and give you purpose!" Through the prophet Ezekiel, God said, "As surely as I live," declares the sovereign Lord, "I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live." Elsewhere, the Bible says of God, He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. It also says, The Lord is full of compassion and mercy.

You don't have to be wicked, to be wicked, according to the Bible. When the Bible speaks of people being wicked, it doesn't only mean people who are evil, or terrible. Sometimes it does, but not always. In this particular passage, the word wicked actually means ungodly people, describing people who don't know God personally, and who sin mainly out of ignorance rather than because they want to act badly. That description fits a lot of people.

The good news is that we are not condemned to a lifetime of ignorance, not being able to

recognize sin. Most of us know when we're sinning, because our consciences become bothered. God has given us a conscience which can govern most of our behavior.

Even if we're not entirely sure if something is right or wrong on our own, we can know with certainty if God approves or disapproves of a particular behavior. Among other things, the Bible is the revelation of God's rules for living. How can we know it's true? Because sometimes we find God's rules to be contrary to our own rules! For example, we're prone to vigilante justice, at least within acceptable boundaries. Yet God says, "Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Do not take revenge ... for it is written: It is mine to avenge; I will repay, says the Lord." That's because people's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires. The real test is not whether or not we can distinguish sin from right behavior, but rather if we will do what we learn is right. The crisis is not one of knowledge, it is a crisis of the will.

The Psalmist says, "Teach me, O Lord, to follow Your decrees; then I will keep them to the end. Give me understanding, and I will keep Your law and obey it with all my heart." Does that describe your attitude? If not, why not? Are we afraid of God, and therefore we play a game of cat and mouse with Him? In Ezekiel we read, Say to the house of Israel, "This is what you are saying: 'Our offenses and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live?' God then replies, "Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, O house of Israel?"

Do we not realize that God's desire is to bless us? God's will for our lives is not bad, nor undesirable! Love must be sincere. Who would argue with that? Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Again, no problem with that, either. Honor one another above yourselves. A noble goal, which we can accomplish with God's help.

God not only wants to bless us, He also wants to use us to bless others. Roswell Dwight Hitchcock once said, "Atheistic morality is not impossible, but it will never answer our purpose." Most of us realize there is more to life than merely living for ourselves, to satisfy our own pleasures. A life lived only for itself is truly purposeless. As someone once said, "Real joy comes not from ease or riches or from praise of men, but from doing something worthwhile." The Psalmist prays, "Turn my heart toward your statutes, and not toward selfish gain. Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to Your word."

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Church News - continued...*The Annual "Dozynki" Is Coming...***St. Joseph's Church
Slates Polish Harvest
Festival For Sept. 12th**

St. Joseph's Polish National Catholic Church in Westfield will hold its annual "Dozynki - Polish Harvest Festival" on Sunday, September 12th. The Festival will be held from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. at the parish social center and parish grounds, Main Street and Clinton Avenue, Westfield.

The harvest wreath, which will be blessed during the 8:00 a.m. Mass that morning, will be brought to the festival with the procession starting at 3:00 p.m. The Dozynki program, highlighted by members of the parish dressed in Polish costumes and singing beautiful folk songs, will follow.

The St. Joseph's Dozynki Dancers will perform traditional Polish folk dances as well. The Leo Murawski Orchestra will accompany the fun-filled hour as well as provide music for your dancing pleasure from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. as well as from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Changes in our 1999 program include the date (which will now be the second Sunday in September), program times, as well as a whole new outdoor game format for children and adults.

The Dozynki kitchen will be open from 12:00 noon until closing. Of course, we'll have the Polish favorites — pierogi (both cheese and cabbage), golabki, kapusta, kielbasa, etc. — as well as American foods. There is no admission charge, and the public is cordially invited.

We celebrate DOZYINKI, a Polish Harvest Festival of Thanksgiving, and we are reminded of the old Polish traditions concerning the feast. A wreath, called either "wieniec" or "snop," is blessed by the priest on that day.

Women of the parish will prepare and decorate the mound-shaped wreath, which is made of many kinds of grain, herbs, flowers, fruits, and vegetables, and is adorned with red and white ribbons. The Dozynki singers, who represent the peasants, will bring the wreath to the festival and present it to the landlord and his wife, the "Pan" and "Pani."

The peasant singers offer special harvest songs, after which there is a time of merriment. Now that the harvest work is over, the dancing and feasting begin.

Dozynki is a festival of praise and thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father for the goodness He has given us, and it is a time to enjoy these gifts God has given us as well.

The St. Joseph's Dozynki dancers is a group of young people from St. Joseph's parish in Westfield. The Dozynki singers are members from St. Joseph's parish and other neighboring Polish National Catholic parishes who have joined together to uphold this beautiful Polish tradition. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Schab will be the "Pan" and "Pani" of our harvest festival.

Mr. Lee Daniels, Chairman of the Parish Committee, and the Very Rev. Joseph Soltysiak, Pastor, extend a most cordial invitation to all to attend this year's Dozynki. We assure you that you will have a most enjoyable time.

**Tag And Craft Sale
At Sacred Heart On
Sat., September 11th**

There will be a Tag and Craft Sale at Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills on Saturday, September 11th, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Thirty-plus spots have been rented, and there will be a snack bar available during the sale and a bake sale, too. Both craft and tag items will be offered.

In case of rain, the sale will be held on the following Saturday. For more information, call 786-8200.

**Agawam Catholic
Singles To Meet On
Thursday, Sept. 9th**

Meetings of the Agawam Catholic Singles Club are held at St. John's Parish Center on the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

The next meeting will take place on September 9th. A square dance demonstration will be the featured program.

For further information, contact Jo Ann, 789-0774, or John, 786-2273.

**Calendar From
Ag. Congregational**

This Sunday, September 5th, Morning Worship will be at 9:30 a.m. for the final Sunday in the summer schedule at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main Street, Agawam.

The Rev. Eric W. Bascom has planned worship around the theme of Labor Day Weekend and the beginning of his term as Interim Pastor. The sermon is: "Our Work Will Seem Like Play."

The Old Testament Reading is Psalm 24, and the Gospel Reading is Luke 4:14-21. The Epistle Reading will also be the Preaching Text and is Colossians 3:17-24.

The church will resume its fall and winter schedule next Sunday, September 12th, with Church School classes at 9:00 a.m. for the seventh through 12 grades (including the Confirmation Class with Rev. Bascom).

Crib Room through second grade will begin Church School after the Children's Message, and grades three through six will begin in their downstairs classrooms at 10:30 a.m.

The Morning Worship Service is at 10:30 a.m.

The Sanctuary Choir will begin its fall schedule for rehearsals on Thursday, September 9th, at 7:00 p.m. New voices are always welcome.

Anyone interested in joining the choir may attend. The choir is under the direction of the Minister of Music, Ms. Ellen Cogen.

Our thanks go out to Tammy (Washburn) Rumplik for her dedication and service to our children and youth as our Youth Advisor.

Tammy is stepping down as Youth Advisor effective immediately. She is to be congratulated for receiving a full-time teaching position at the Agawam Middle School and is expecting another child.

Our youth and church will miss her enthusiasm, leadership, and fun-loving spirit. Thanks, Tammy, and good luck!

For more information concerning any of our events, please call the church office at 786-7111.

**Catholic Women's
Club To Hold
"Welcoming Tea"**

Please join the Catholic Women's Club of Agawam for their first meeting of the 1999-2000 year and a "Welcoming Tea." It will be held September 13th at St. John the Evangelist Church Parish Center at 7:30 p.m.

Hospitality for the evening will be provided by Elaine Smith and her committee.

Speaker for the evening will be Barbara Schaedler, Ph.D., Director of Horticulture, Springfield Technical Community College. She will host a slide presentation and story on the Garden of Chelsie in England.

**St. John's Parish
News And Notes****PARISH PICNIC**

The Parish Picnic was held on Sunday, August 29th, and was an outstanding success. Although there is no firm count, the event was the best attended in recent memory.

A good time was had by all, thanks to Maryann Green (chairman) and all who devoted time and effort to help out.

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY

On September 19th at the 9:30 a.m. Mass, we will celebrate Catechetical Sunday. We would invite our teachers to come if they can as we pray for them and commission them in this vital parish ministry.

Regular classes will begin on September 18th.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

As we get ready to start a new year of religious education, we once more are looking for help with our teaching program. With over 500 students, we try to break down the class size to 10 to 15 students.

If you have taught in the past, we would hope you would consider coming back to assist. If you cannot do it on a regular basis, maybe on a ready/reserve substitute roster.

Please call Fr. Howard, Fr. Bill, or Annette Reynolds (our new CCD Coordinator) at 786-8105.

JUST CLOTHING PLEASE

We are very grateful to everyone who drop off useable clothing for the needy. It is very impressive to see the sharing that goes on.

But attic treasures and toys are not of value at this time. We would ask you to bring them to the Center.

**Grace Lutheran
Slates Tag Sale/
Flea Mkt./Bake Sale**

Grace Lutheran Church will be holding their annual Tag Sale/Flea Market/Bake Sale on Saturday, Sept. 11th, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the church parking lot at 1552 Westfield Street, West Springfield.

There will be something for everyone, including collectibles, new and used items, adult and children's clothing, and toys. In addition, there will be a baked goods table with homemade cakes, pies, cookies, jams, and jellies. Coffee and donuts, hot dogs, and soft drinks will be on sale. In the event of rain, the sale will be held in the church hall with parking at the rear of the church.

Anyone wishing to rent space can do so by calling the church office Monday through Friday, between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon at 734-9268.

Spaces are \$10 without table or \$15 with an eight-foot table.

*best local news...***CALABRESE
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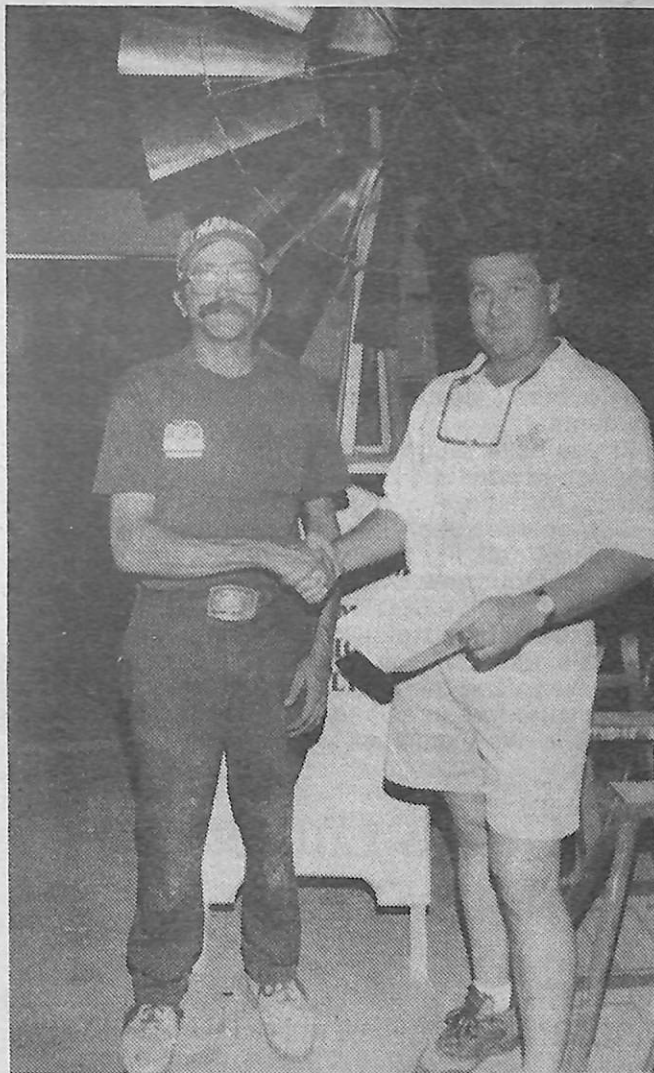
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Spotlight On Business

Riverside's Maintenance Award Winners



CHUCK DAVIS (with glasses around his neck), Director of Maintenance at Riverside Park, recently recognized the efforts of several maintenance employees: left photo — Lou Magni ("Creativity Award"); center photo — Don Sarna ("Creativity Award"); right photo — John Peltier ("Maintenance Person of the Month"). Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

Legal Memo

by
Alan L. Ferrigno, Esq.
546 Springfield St., F.H.
(413) 786-9454



NEGLIGENCE & TORT Design/Construction - Ceiling Collapse

Where a massive collapse of three separate ceiling systems occurred at the plaintiffs' new medical office. The ceiling systems consisted of two sprinkler systems, plumbing, electrical, air conditioning and heating systems, and ceiling panels which were connected to wooden joints. The weight of these systems, once the sprinkler

systems were made operational, allegedly caused the ceiling systems to detach from the wooden joints and crash into the new medical office, causing substantial damage to the office furnishings, patient files, leasehold improvements, and personal property, and causing a substantial business interruption loss.

The plaintiffs were in the process of moving their medical practice from one hospital to another. As a result of the ceiling collapse, the plaintiffs were forced to use a much smaller office space during which their offices were being repaired. During this time, the plaintiffs claimed that they were unable to fully develop their practices due to the substantial reduction in space.

Prior to the settlement of this claim, the plaintiffs additionally received \$180,000.00 towards their business losses and \$80,000.00 toward their personal property losses from their insurance company. The plaintiffs, therefore, had to prove business and property losses in excess of \$260,000.00 in order to recover.

It was the defendants' position that the plaintiffs incurred little, if any, business losses since they were able to set up their temporary office space shortly after the collapse of the ceiling. The defendants further claimed that the lost revenue claim by the plaintiffs was highly speculative since the plaintiffs were moving their practice to a new location and by their own admission expected to lose 50 percent of their existing patients due to the move.

Finally, the defendants claimed that the plaintiffs' business was a "new business" and consequently they were not entitled to recover for their business losses at all under existing Massachusetts case law.

The case was settled for \$265,000.00 in favor of the plaintiffs.

Attorney Alan L. Ferrigno maintains an office at 546 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, Massachusetts. If you have a legal question, Attorney Ferrigno will attempt to address the same in this column. Please send any questions to the address listed above.

For photo coverage in The AAN, please call us at 786-7747 or 786-8137; however, please give us at least 72 hours' notice prior to your event...

* * * * *

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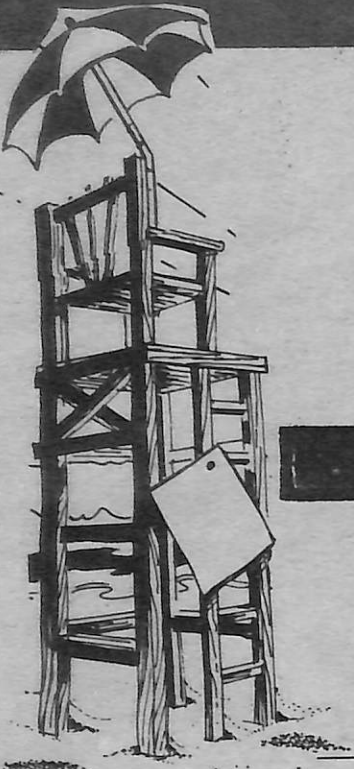
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Spotlight On Business - continued...



Travel Talk...

by Lori Keeley, CTC
Travel Connections, LTD
10 Chestnut Street
West Spfld., MA 01089
(413) 732-1313

Tips For Dealing With Lost Luggage

At one time or another, it may happen to you or a family member. The airline loses your luggage. Here are some tips in helping you deal with the loss and advice on retrieving and/or being compensated for your lost luggage.

Travelers whose luggage is lost must first make a claim with the airline. If the luggage is lost permanently (i.e., missing for over 90 days), the FAA guidelines state that travelers must be paid \$1,250 per passenger for a claim on a domestic flight. For an international flight, a claim drops to \$635.

Travelers must be able to prove their claim with receipts for any purchases.

To the customer's advantage, the airline will want his or her continued business, so persistent negotiating with the airline may pay off.

If you have any questions or problems regarding airline ticket purchases over the Internet, please call our office. We may be able to help. Remember, if you do not purchase your tickets with a travel agent, you may run into a problem and need someone to go to for help.

Radio City Christmas Spectacular - Sunday, November 28, 1999. Price is \$89 per person. What a great way to start your holiday celebration and make some family memories. Call today 413-732-1313.

Westfield Bank Supports 2 Westfield YMCA Programs

Westfield Bank President Donald A. Williams has announced that the bank is donating \$15,000 to support two Westfield YMCA programs.

Williams noted, "Five-thousand dollars will be earmarked for the 1999 YMCA Partners with Youth Program, while the other \$10,000 will help fund needed renovations at Camp Shepard. We are pleased to be able to help the citizens of Westfield with these contributions."

At the recent check presentation, YMCA Executive Director Harry Rock stated, "It really means a lot to the YMCA and its ability to provide quality programs to area children to have a business like Westfield Bank be so supportive. As a non-profit human services charity, we are committed to a philosophy of prevention within our youth and teen programs."

YMCA programs help keep kids on the right track in life, teaches them the difference between right and wrong, and helps them be productive members of the community. Rock continued, "Donations like these from Westfield Bank will enable the YMCA to meet its mission and goal of making a positive difference in the lives of the children of our community."

Westfield Bank, with assets of over \$590 million, has been headquartered in Westfield since 1853. As one of the largest community banks in the area, the bank has offices in Agawam, East Longmeadow, Southwick, Springfield, and West Springfield.

Robert H. Banspach Named V.P. For Bank Of W. Massachusetts

Timothy P. Crimmins, Jr., President of The Bank of Western Massachusetts, recently announced the appointment of Robert H. Banspach as Vice President for The Bank of Western Massachusetts.

In this capacity, Banspach will function as a Commercial Loan Officer in the Bank's Commercial Loan Division. He will be responsible for administering a portfolio of commercial loans as well as developing new commercial loan relationships.

Prior to joining The Bank of Western Massachusetts, Banspach was employed for 19 years by Fleet Bank, formerly known as The Bank of New England-West, where he performed in a similar capacity as a Vice President/Commercial Loan Officer.

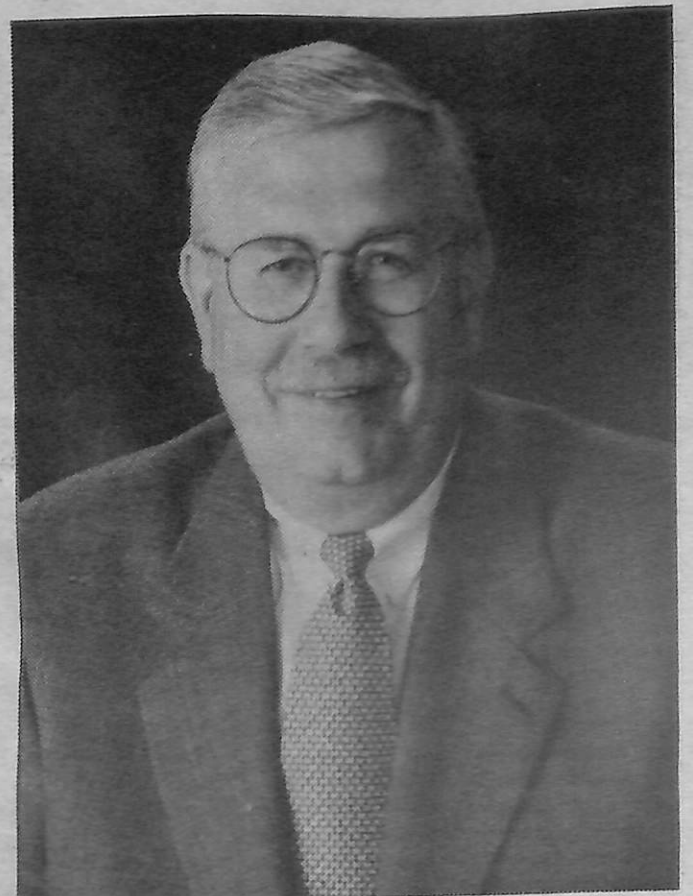
Banspach holds an undergraduate degree in business from Bryant College and is a 1978 graduate of Providence College, where he received a M.B.A. in Business Administration.

He resides in Feeding Hills with his wife, Lorraine, and children, Dawn and Rob.

Banspach has served on the Board of Governors of the American Institute of Banking, and as a Trustee of the West Springfield Boys and Girls Club.

The Bank of Western Massachusetts, originally formed in April of 1987, is now in its 13th year of operation with assets in excess of \$275 million. The Bank is a full-service, state-chartered commercial bank that has specific expertise in servicing the commercial banking needs of small- and medium-size businesses located within Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin Counties.

The Bank has five offices; two located in Springfield and one office in Holyoke, Amherst, and Northampton. The Bank of Western Massachusetts is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Chit-



ROBERT H. BANSPACH

tenden Corporation, a five-bank holding company headquartered in Burlington, Vermont.

On September 25, 1999, The Bank of Western Massachusetts will be merging with the United Bank of Greenfield. After the merger, all offices of United will be operating as The Bank of Western Massachusetts.

The merger will then increase The Bank of Western Massachusetts' assets to over \$550 million and increase its branch network from five offices to 12.

Westfield Bank Supports Summer Campaign Of Westfield's American Red Cross Chapter

Westfield Bank President Donald A. Williams has announced that the Bank will be contributing \$7,500 to the Summer Campaign of the Westfield Chapter of the American Red Cross. As Williams noted, "Westfield Bank is pleased to be able to support the numerous services that the Red Cross provides within our local community."

At a recently held check presentation, Richard A. Rubin, Executive Director, stated, "It is with great pleasure that I accept this contribution from Westfield Bank. They have a long history of financial support for the Red Cross. This check will go a long way in ensuring that we can continue to provide quality service to those in need."

Also present were Fred McGraw, Chapter Chairman, and Rebecca Ligsukis, Chapter Treasurer.

* * * * *

THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE to purchase tickets for Jack Devine's retirement party on Sunday, September 12th, at Chez Josef in Agawam. Please call 789-0721 this weekend...



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Spotlight On Business - continued...**COMMON SENSE**

with

Raymond Rose**THE PIONEER GROUP****10 Principles Of Investing...**

When building a long-term investing plan, it's important to have a few guidelines. My philosophy on investing is reflected in 10 easy principles — a great foundation for helping you plan and manage your financial life.

1. Start with the basics for long-term investing. Begin by setting aside in cash at least two to six months' living expenses — an emergency fund that will be available in the event of illness or a period of unemployment. Then take advantage of employer-sponsored retirement plans and IRAs by contributing up to the maximum amount allowed. Finally, commit yourself to regular investing now so that you and your family will have enough later.

2. Get started now. Every year you put off investing makes accomplishing your ultimate retirement goals even more difficult. As a rule of thumb, for every five years you wait, you may need to double your monthly investing amount to achieve the same retirement income. Social Security and pension plans are not enough for a comfortable retirement.

3. Know yourself. Understand yourself as an investor: your emotions, your fears, and your tolerance for risk. Make sure you choose investments that you're comfortable with and that are appropriate for your long-term goals. For some investors, particularly those with large or complex portfolios who want ongoing investment management, the services of a fee-compensated financial advisor may be appropriate.

4. Invest for growth. Invest in stocks, either individually or in mutual funds, for long-term growth. While in any given year, stocks can be more volatile than other investments, over time, stocks have typically outperformed all other types of investments while staying ahead of inflation. Stocks should be the core of a long-term investing strategy.

5. Take a long-term view. Patience is a virtue. Maintain the discipline to hold onto or add to appropriate investments through down markets as well as up markets.

6. Build a diversified portfolio. In deciding how to allocate your assets, be sure to diversify, both among asset classes (stocks, bonds, and cash-equivalents), and within each class. Choose an appropriate asset allocation model. Doing so can spread risk over a variety of investments and may provide more consistent and reliable outcomes. For many investors, broad-based index funds are an excellent investment strategy. Index funds are a sound, low-cost choice for a core holding designed to track the market's performance.

7. Consider bonds and cash for diversification and income. Bonds and cash can play an important role in an investor's portfolio, providing solutions for income and diversification needs. But to achieve your long-term growth objectives, look to stocks and stock mutual funds.

8. Minimize your expenses. Over the long run, sales charges, loans, and high expenses can drag down the performance of even a well-diversified portfolio. Reduce your investment expenses by using no-load funds, low-cost stock and bond trading services, and tax-efficient mutual funds. For many investors, a buy-and-hold strategy can minimize the impact of capital gains taxes.

9. Stay on track. Review your portfolio at least once a year, and certainly whenever personal circumstances change. You'll need to evaluate the performance of your investments against relevant risk-adjusted benchmarks, and, when necessary, to rebalance your portfolio to stay on track with your long-term financial plan.

10. Become a lifelong investor. Investing for growth shouldn't stop when you retire. To make your money work for you throughout your retirement years, keep investing a portion of your portfolio for growth. Don't automatically shift all of your money into fixed-income and money market investments too early.

Raymond Rose is the Principal of THE PIONEER GROUP, a professional real estate firm that represents home buyers only. Comments/questions can be directed to his office (731-6800) or his e-mail (RayRose111@aol.com). Also, contact him via e-mail to receive his FREE online newsletter, THE PIONEER REPORT - Online.

Our office will be closed on Monday, Labor Day (September 6th); we will reopen on Tuesday, September 7th, at 6:30 a.m.

* * *

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Building a home that is friendly and convenient for people of all ages and different physical abilities may be a smart investment. Why? Because one in every three Americans will develop special housing needs.

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Details in an adaptable house include:

- Lever handles on doors and faucets.
- Height-adjustable showers.
- Lower light switches.
- Reinforced bath walls with a brace or grab bar.
- House that is one level for wheelchair accessibility.
- Wide doors and halls.
- Eight-foot-high garage doors.
- High-density, low-pile carpets.
- Flat thresholds.
- Raised work areas.
- Contrast in wall and floor colors.
- Wide kitchen aisles, lowered work surfaces, side-by-side refrigerators.
- Room in the bath for a wheelchair, wide walk-in shower.
- Hot water sensors.

For more information on buying a home, call Pam Savioli at (413) 748-7565.

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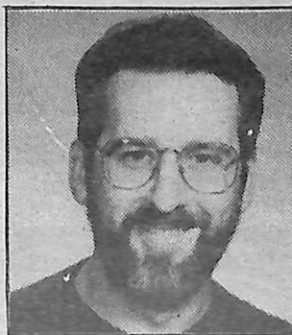
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For Your Health



**"Let's Talk
About It"**

**by Dan Pender
Marriage &
Family Therapist
P.O. Box 449
Agawam, MA 01001
(413) 789-4460**

Points Of Transition

We all go through transitions that are often not easy to experience. For example, many of us have just put our children on the school bus this morning, perhaps for the first time. Others of you are ready to have the school schedule back in place for you. Perhaps you'll get a little more time to yourself or be able to be at work with a little less stress over child care placement.

Transitions are a big part of life. If we were to stop and begin counting all the transitions we make just in one day or even in one hour, the task could be overwhelming. We are constantly challenged to move from one person or thing to another, often at an unrealistic pace. This pace can lead to feeling over-anxious, stressed out, pressed down upon (depressed), or perhaps under-prepared.

Whether your focus is the work, home, or relationship context, it is important to slow down enough to face your **points of transition**. Thankfully, not all transitions are "heavy" or serious. Often it is our managing the "little" ones that prepare us well for the "big" ones.

For example, you and your child stepping on the bus today can more easily *separate* if you each have already negotiated the transition of separation. For the separation to go as smoothly as possible, it requires feeling comfortable that each knows you'll be *coming back together* after the time away. It requires exchanging information, preparation, and practice.

A teacher of mine taught me that practice does not make perfect. **Practice makes permanent!** If you practice incorrectly, you'll perform it incorrectly. Therefore, how you practice relationships will lead to pattern formation and ways of living that can become *set or stuck*.

Relationships take practice! They are never perfect. Nor should they remain stagnant. Healthy relationships are *transitional* by nature. They require movement. They require real work and give and take.

Life offers many opportunities to create rituals to help celebrate and mourn transitions. **Rituals** are an essential part of living into the transitional moment. How you face your transitions can make all the difference in your quality of life, especially with your most important relationships. What are some of the rituals you've used at important transition points in your life?

Let's talk some more about this ... in the meantime, use my **NEW e-mail address: AOL screen name: dpmft449**, or continue to write me with your feedback, relationship questions, and topics and Let's Talk about it.

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Mercy Hospital Offers Help For Children Of Cancer Patients

Learning that your parent has cancer is difficult for children of all ages. But discovering you're not alone and sharing your feelings and concerns with others in the same situation can help.

Children of area cancer patients have that opportunity, through a support group which meets monthly at Mercy Hospital. The group's next meeting will take place on Monday, September 6th, at 7:00 p.m. in the hospital's Deliso Conference Center, 299 Carew Street, Springfield.

Meetings are led by skilled facilitators from Mercy Hospital's Pastoral Care Department and are free of charge. Persons of all ages are welcome.

For more information, call the Pastoral Care Department, (413) 748-9453.

The Sisters of Providence Health System (SPHS) is a founding member of Catholic Health East, one of the nation's largest health care systems. Catholic Health East facilities serve communities in eastern states from Maine to Florida.

The SPHS's member organizations provide hospital and ambulatory care, rehabilitation, behavioral health services, nursing home care, retirement living, employee health services, home care, and more.

Breast Cancer Support Group Slates Meetings At Mercy Hospital

The Breast Cancer Support Group, sponsored by the Women's Pavilion at Mercy Hospital, will meet on September 7th and 21st from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. in the Women's Pavilion, 299 Carew Street, Springfield.

The group is open to women who have been diagnosed with breast cancer or who have experienced mastectomy and other breast surgery. Family and friends are welcome to attend and share their experiences and concerns.

For more information, call the Women's Pavilion, (413) 748-9080.

The Sisters of Providence Health System (SPHS) is a founding member of Catholic Health East, one of the nation's largest health care systems. Catholic Health East facilities serve communities in eastern states from Maine to Florida.

The SPHS's member organizations provide hospital and ambulatory care, rehabilitation, behavioral health services, nursing home care, retirement living, employee health services, home care, and more.



**Your Back And
Your Health**

**by Dr. Joseph
S. Schlaffer
Schlaffer
Chiropractic Offices
192 Shoemaker Lane
Agawam**

Herniated Discs

In the past, it was believed that once a patient acquired a herniated disc, it was permanent. Many assume that surgical intervention is necessary to resolve the herniated disc problem.

However, recent research with MRI and CT outcome studies has documented that this is fallacy. Herniated discs in the cervical and lumbar spine have been shown to not only reduce in size after a period of conservative care, but in many cases regress and disappear upon reimaging.

Numerous medical studies and some chiropractic studies have been performed and published. In recent studies by Mochida et al., both cervical (CDH) and lumbar (LDH) disc herniations were studied in pre- and post-MR imaging conditions.

In CDH cases, they demonstrated that in 40 percent of the time, there was a reduction in size, or regression. In LDH cases, they demonstrated about a 60 percent reduction, or regression, in the size of the herniation.

They also found that the larger the extrusion or sequestration, the better the rate of regression. They concluded that disc regression or resorption depended upon size, location, and the phase of the injury.

It was found that certain cells in our bodies attack the disc fragment as a foreign protein, much like any other antigen. One study obtained pre- and post-chiropractic care MRIs and found that in 63 percent of the cases, there was either a reduction in size, or the disc herniation resorbed completely.

It also showed that 80 percent of the cases had good clinical outcomes, and 78 percent of the patients returned to their pre-injury occupations. Chiropractic care was shown to be amenable to the clinical management of the disc herniation not only on a clinical level, but on an anatomical level as well.

For further information, please contact the Schlaffer Chiropractic Office at 192 Shoemaker Lane, Agawam. 789-1369 or 789-1073.

**"For Your Health" is a
weekly feature of The AAN.**

Sept. 8, 1959-1999



**Oh, look ... it's Cindi Lee Borgatti.
Revenge was sweet at your 40th party.**

**Remember this itsy-bitsy, teenie weenie...
A day gone by for that bikini!**

**You are no longer in your prime.
So you can stop looking for that good
time!!! Ha, Ha!!!**

**Gotcha good again!!!
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For Your Health - continued...

Support Groups, Courses, And Programs At Noble Hospital

SUPPORT GROUPS

Alcoholics Anonymous: Sunday evenings, 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. In Conference Room A at Noble Hospital, 115 West Silver Street, Westfield.

Free of charge. All are welcome.

Stroke Support Group: Wednesdays, September 8th and 22nd, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. In the Bronson Rehabilitation Center Dining Room at Noble Hospital.

Free of charge and open to individuals recovering from a stroke and their spouses, caregivers, and other interested persons.

Participants are encouraged to suggest topics for future meetings. Call Barbara Boulanger, M.S.W., L.I.C.S.W., 568-2811, ext. 5809.

Diabetes: Tuesday, September 28th, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. In Conference Room A at Noble Hospital.

Free of charge and open to individuals who have diabetes and their support persons.

At this meeting, Jane Martone, D.D.S., M.D., will speak about "Dental Care and Diabetes."

Better Breathers: Wednesday, September 8th, 2:00 p.m. In the Third Floor Cardiopulmonary Classroom at Noble Hospital.

"Benefits of Pulmonary Rehabilitation" will be discussed at this meeting.

Free of charge and open to individuals with respiratory or pulmonary difficulties and their support persons. Please call 572-5081 with any questions.

COURSES/PROGRAMS/CLINICS

Free Athletic Injury Clinic: Thursdays, September 16th and 30th, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. At Noble Hospital's Sports and Rehabilitation Center, 76 Main Street, Westfield.

On the first, third, and fifth Thursdays of every month, a certified athletic trainer will evaluate athletic injuries. Then, based upon the evaluation, remedial exercises or physician referral may be recommended.

For an appointment, call 562-3522.

2nd Annual Hearts and Flowers - "A Heart Healthy Barbecue and Informational Retreat." Wednesday, September 8th, 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. Presented by Noble Hospital and Stanley Park.

Registration fee is \$8 per person (for dinner and informational presentations). Seating is limited and advance registration is required.

For more information, call Noble Hospital's Health Beat at (413) 568-2328.

Reunion Picnic: In honor of the Bronson Rehabilitation Unit's 10th Anniversary and Na-

tional Rehabilitation Week (September 12th-18th), the Bronson Rehab Unit at Noble Hospital invites former and current Bronson patients and their families to a "Reunion Picnic" on Monday, September 13th, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Picnic to be held on the Mill Street lawn at Noble Hospital. Please contact the Bronson Rehabilitation Center at (413) 572-5151 if you plan to attend.

Smoking Cessation - "Forgetting Cigarettes" with Joseph Barako, R.N., Certified Hypnotherapist. Sundays, September 12th and 19th, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. In the Bronson Music Room at Noble Hospital.

This two-part program uses hypnosis to eliminate your desire for smoking and allows you to forget cigarettes forever. The registration fee for this program is \$40 and is paid the evening of the first session.

Seating is limited, and pre-registration is necessary. To pre-register or for more information, call Noble Hospital's Health Beat at (413) 568-2328.

CPR Course: Wednesdays, September 15th and 22nd, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. In the Education Department/Ground Floor at Noble Hospital.

This two-part course provides American Heart Association Adult, Child, and Infant Certification. The cost of the course is \$45.

To register or obtain more information, call Noble Hospital's Education Department at (413) 572-5172.

"Everything You Always Wanted To Know About Sciatica..." (lecture by Scott Cooper, M.D.): Wednesday, September 15th, 6:00 p.m. In Conference Room A at Noble Hospital.

The lecture is free of charge. Seating is limited and advance registration is required.

To register, call Noble Hospital's Health Beat at (413) 568-2328.

Cosmetic/Plastic Surgery with Dr. Gary Russolillo: Tuesday, September 21st, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. In Conference Room B at Noble Hospital.


Gary Russolillo, M.D., will present a lecture about Body Contouring Surgeries, Lip Enhancements, Facial Surgeries, and Skin Care Procedures. Also included will be a live chemical peel demonstration.

The presentation will be followed by a complimentary personal consultation. Registration is free, and seating is limited.

Pre-registration is required. To register, call Noble Hospital's Health Beat at (413) 568-2328.

For photo coverage in The AAN, please call us at 786-7747 or 786-8137; however, please give us at least 72 hours' notice prior to your event...

* * * * *



Chiropractic Care
by
Dr. Tami Nelson
Chiropractic
Physician
Hampden County
Chiropractic
850 Springfield St.
Feeding Hills
786-4820

Back To School Time

It's back to school time! It's great returning to the books and learning. There are some disadvantages, though.

After being active and mobile all summer, the body has a difficult time sitting for a long period of time. The muscles tighten after sitting and the joints in the spine "lock up" and don't function properly.

This leads to muscle pain and stiffness. Gentle stretches during breaks in the day help keep the body flexible. Backpacks are another source of problems. Our kids have to carry heavy loads of books. Carrying a large load on one side of the body can lead to an imbalance and cause pain and discomfort.

Try to keep the bags as light as possible. Carry only what you need to use. Carry the bags over both shoulders instead of just one. This balances the weight evenly. Posture has a major effect on the body. Try to sit as straight as possible in the truly uncomfortable chairs provided. (Maybe they use these so you don't fall asleep during the day!)

As far as studying goes, a recent study conducted in California concluded that natural lighting can have a dramatic effect on a child's performance in school. Test scores revealed a 26 percent higher performance in reading and a 20 percent better grade in math for those pupils in rooms with the most natural lighting! So, when returning to school:

- STRETCH YOUR MUSCLES THROUGHOUT THE DAY

- KEEP YOUR BACKPACK LIGHT, AND BALANCED

- DON'T SLOUCH IN THE CHAIRS

- TRY TO SIT BY A WINDOW

GOOD LUCK IN THE SCHOOL YEAR!

Dr. Nelson maintains an office at Hampden County Chiropractic, 850 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, 786-4820.

* * *

THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE to purchase tickets for Jack Devine's retirement party on Sunday, September 12th, at Chez Josef in Agawam. Please call 789-0721 this weekend...

* * *

Decisions. Decisions. Decisions.

Your loved ones may make more than 120 decisions related to your funeral—most in the first 24 hours after your death. Fortunately, there's a way to avoid adding to their burden of grief. It's called preplanning, and with Curran-Jones & Family Considerations®, it's a simple process you can do today.

To learn about all the facts and benefits of funeral preplanning, call us today. You'll receive a valuable *Family Considerations® Planning Guide*—absolutely FREE and without obligation.

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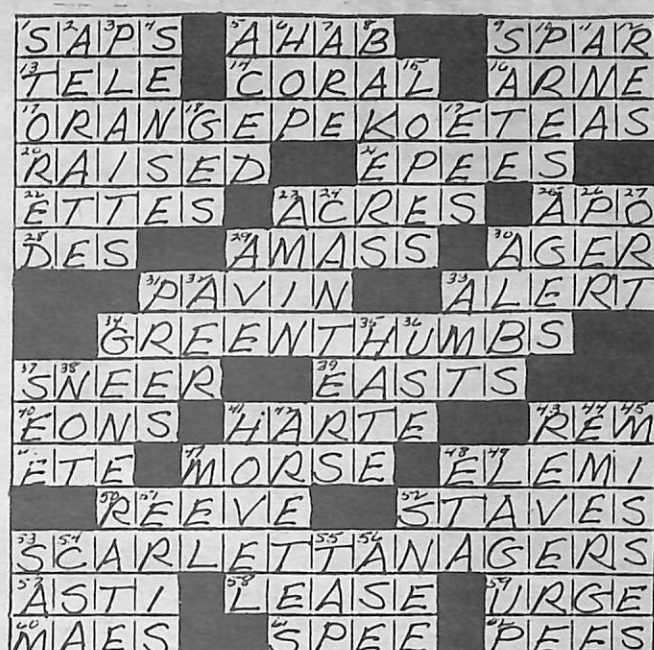
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Arts

Last Week's Solution...



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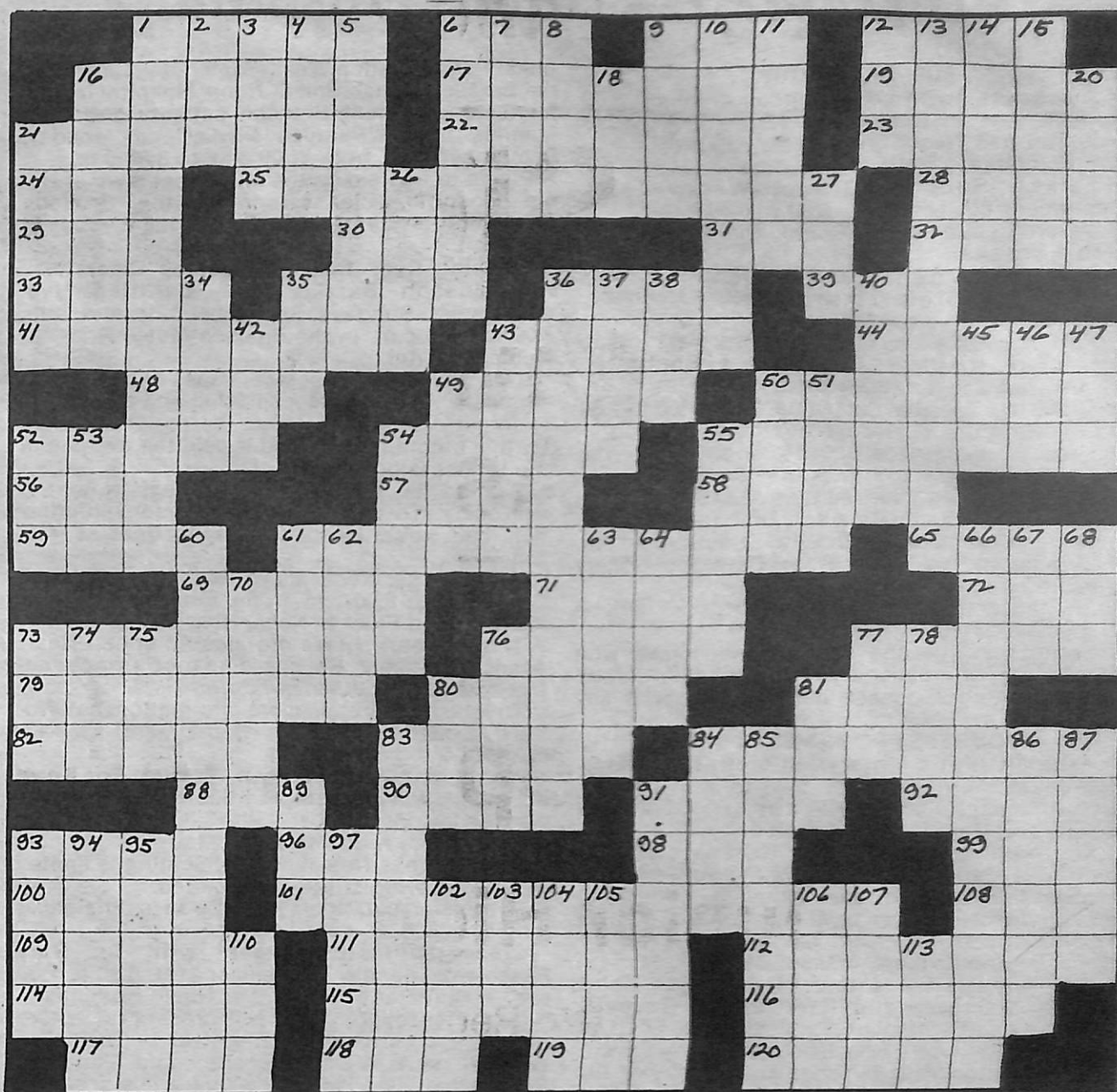
- 1 — ease (uncomfortable)
- 6 Sound unit
- 9 Three in Roma
- 12 Eden patriarch
- 16 Sage hen
- 17 Tallow-like substance
- 19 Gossip
- 21 Word for the cheshire cat
- 22 Farm planting
- 23 Make amends
- 24 Possesses
- 25 Work break treat
- 28 Mr. Wilson to Dennis
- 29 Ethiopia (abbr.)
- 30 "You — my sunshine"
- 31 Follower (suffix)
- 32 Dame Myra
- 33 Swan feature
- 35 Small nail
- 36 Film — man
- 39 Lemay's org. once
- 41 They go clang-clang
- 43 Swap
- 44 Chases fly balls
- 48 Made for walking?
- 49 South Africans
- 50 Signal receiver
- 52 Bistros
- 54 Sean and William
- 55 Came to a head (2 wds.)
- 56 Dessert favorite
- 57 — the Red
- 58 Jay and family
- 59 Cassini the designer
- 61 Side orders
- 65 Morays
- 69 Mid-East leader
- 71 Sob copiously
- 72 Modernist's prefix
- 73 Runs
- 76 Red deer femmes
- 77 Pushed in a way
- 79 Said of insufficient space
- 80 Obeys
- 81 Post
- 82 Add up
- 83 State trees of Maine
- 84 Workers' plus
- 88 Formerly named
- 90 Ship deserters
- 91 Bulb lighter?
- 92 Hebrew lyre
- 93 Cabbage dish
- 96 "Norma —"
- 98 Anais
- 99 Attila follower
- 100 Land of the Inca
- 101 Tsar's potable
- 108 Part of T.G.I.F.
- 109 Avoid
- 111 Moses' cross-over
- 112 Engine part
- 114 Wash cycle
- 115 Instigated
- 116 Careless
- 117 Thurmond of basketball
- 118 Ear (prefix)
- 119 Summer cooler
- 120 Hockey infraction

DOWN

- 1 Dublin treat

- 2 Hinkle of the PGA
- 3 Swedish university
- 4 On the ocean
- 5 Three-fold
- 6 Demeaned
- 7 Mechanic (abbr.)
- 8 Lawbreaker (police slang)
- 9 — the night before
- 10 Jazz predecessor
- 11 Apply pressure
- 12 Macaw
- 13 Edam
- 14 Love to Dino
- 15 Washburn and Van Dyke
- 16 Kitchen implement
- 18 Red or Dead
- 20 Yankees' foe
- 21 Belgium city
- 26 Saving vehicles
- 27 Agreeable word
- 34 Painter Paul
- 35 Wager
- 36 Cherished nectar
- 37 Gibbons
- 38 Agency output
- 40 Houston player
- 42 Brown with a band
- 43 Part of G & T
- 45 Over — out
- 46 Antelope
- 47 Dumbbell (slang)
- 49 Swiss capital
- 50 Sheltered at sea
- 51 Fabray et al
- 52 Naval rating
- 53 Feel poorly
- 54 Equals
- 55 Tosses a coin
- 60 Brat meat?
- 61 Festival
- 62 Actress Donna
- 63 — off (repulses)
- 64 Cincinnati nine
- 66 Dover sole
- 67 Comic Pinky
- 68 Buster of the West
- 70 Syrup producer
- 73 R. Jackson's month (with Mr.)
- 74 For
- 75 Devour
- 76 Bit of a clue
- 77 One-time Mid-East org.
- 78 Actress Gam
- 80 Woody's Farrow
- 81 — culpa
- 83 Gift
- 84 Hatred in Anzio
- 85 Salesmen
- 86 Grieves for
- 87 Ford of Tennessee
- 89 Go wrong
- 91 Intrude upon
- 93 Box
- 94 Author Ira
- 95 Action site
- 97 Video partner
- 102 Maine river or city
- 103 Infamous Amin
- 104 The Charles' terrier
- 105 Requirement
- 106 German port
- 107 Soprano Gluck
- 110 Golf gadget
- 113 Fer de —

Meet The Master - by Dick Mastroianni...



Operation Friendship's Roast Beef Dinner Slated At F. Hills Congregational Church

Operation Friendship of America, a non-profit youth cultural exchange program sponsored by the Feeding Hills Congregational Church, is having a Roast Beef Dinner on September 11th.

Dinner consists of roast beef and gravy, mashed potatoes, tossed salad, vegetable, bread and

butter, dessert, and beverage.

Servings are from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. Adults are \$7.50; children under 12 are \$4; and children under five are free.

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**Tuesday,
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(Suburban And CYO)

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(Suburban And CYO)

5th/6th Grade Boys' And Girls' A Teams
(Suburban And CYO)

5th/6th Grade Boys' And Girls' B Teams
(Suburban And CYO)

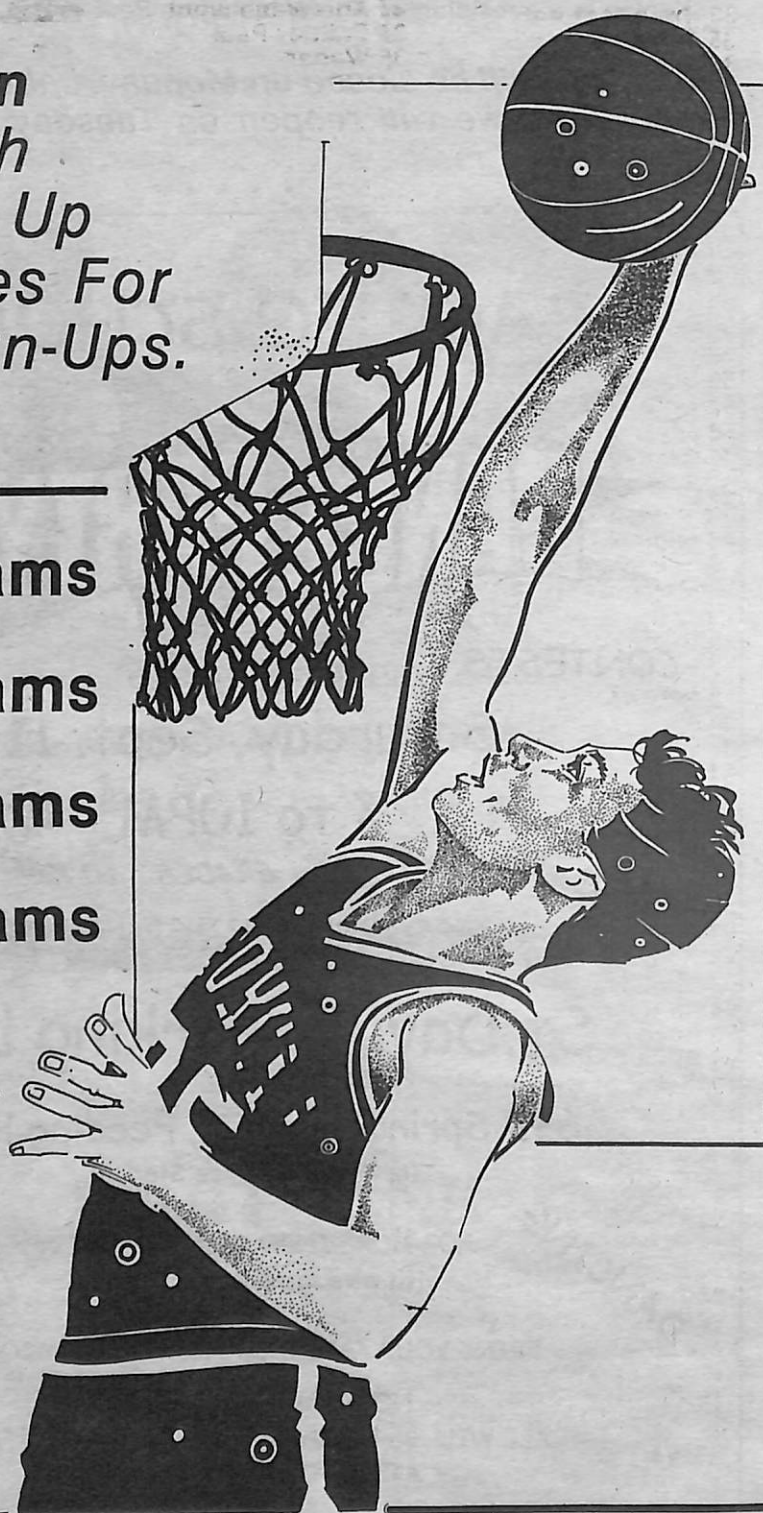
3rd/4th Grade Boys And Girls (CYO)

For More Information Call:

Bob Hersey, AAA President, At 786-2979

(Between 12:00 Noon And 4:00 P.M.)

Paul Federico, Boys' Coordinator, At 786-8948
(Evenings)





Education

Free Seminar On College Admissions & Test-Taking Strategies

Kaplan Educational Centers, one of the nation's premier education and career services companies, is offering a free orientation seminar for high school students and their parents from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on Sunday, September 12th, at Wilbraham and Monson Academy.

This seminar will give families key information about the PSAT, the SAT, and the college admission process, as well as Kaplan's proven test-taking strategies. In addition, each family will receive a free copy of the Kaplan/Newsweek "How to Get Into College" guide.

"A good SAT score is a powerful way for students to show admissions committees their potential," said Kathy Ciaccio, Director of Pre-College Programs for Kaplan. "This free seminar introduces students to the exam, explains its role in the admissions process, and provides key strategies to help students raise their scores."

This is a free workshop, but seating is limited. For the location of the seminar nearest you, or to reserve a seat, call 1-800-KAP-TEST.

With 1,200 locations in the U.S. and abroad, Kaplan is a premier provider of educational and career services for individuals, schools, and businesses. Kaplan's six operating divisions include Test Preparation and Admissions, which has served three-million students over the past 60 years; SCORE! Educational Centers, offering K-12 after-school programs; Kaplan Learning Services, providing customized education services and professional development at schools and universities; Publishing, which produces books and software; Kaplan Professional, providing assessment, recruitment, training, and certification services; and its distance learning division, offering programs including Concord School of Law, the nation's first online law school, and the National Institute for Paralegal Arts and Sciences (NIPAS), a leading provider of degrees and certificates in paralegal studies and legal nurse consulting.

Kaplan is a subsidiary of The Washington Post Company.

Our office will be closed on Monday, Labor Day (September 6th); we will reopen on Tuesday, September 7th, at 6:30 a.m.

* * * * *

"Ahoy, There," Pack 77 Cub Scouts...



ON SATURDAY, JULY 24TH, Pack 77 Cub Scouts embarked on a much-anticipated, overnight camping trip aboard the Battleship Massachusetts. The Scouts traveled to Fall River to explore the 680-foot battleship and the surrounding sights.

For photo coverage in The AAN, please call us at 786-7747 or 786-8137; however, please give us at least 72 hours' notice prior to your event...

BACK TO SCHOOL



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Suburban/C.Y.O. Basketball

SIGN-UPS

Agawam Basketball Organization

Tuesday, Sept. 7th

6-7:30 P.M. Agawam Public Library
(Community Room)

Thursday, Sept. 9th

6-7:30 P.M. Agawam Public Library
(Community Room)

Registration is for:

BOYS 5th & 6th grade
BOYS 7th & 8th grade

GIRLS 5th & 6th grade
GIRLS 7th & 8th grade

NO FEES WILL BE COLLECTED AT THIS TIME
Tryouts to be announced

For further information contact:
Fred Perry at 786-7914 or Dave Boisvert at 786-0783

Learning Bus Safety...



AT THE AUGUST 25TH "First Time Bus Riders Program," members of the Agawam Junior Women's Club and the "Safety Bug" provided important instructions to the young school bus riders. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

All the hometown news with us, each and every week...

Dave's Soda & Pet City To Award Area "Students Of The Month"

For the third straight year, Dave's Soda & Pet City will be recognizing local students who show a "sincere desire to learn and improve upon their performance in school."

Packets containing achievement certificates and coupons for free Betta fish are now available to teachers who wish to reward one student per month during the 1999-2000 school year. Students in grades kindergarten through eight are eligible for Dave's "Student of the Month" Program. This program is FREE with no cost to the student or school.

Last year alone, Dave's gave away more than 1,200 Betta fish to deserving students in Agawam, West Springfield, Springfield, and other locations.

"It's a way for students who may not have straight A's to gain recognition for other efforts they are making in school," Dave Ratner, owner of Dave's Soda & Pet City (and most certainly NOT a straight A student), said of the program.

For more information about Dave's "Student of the Month" Program, or to request a packet, please contact Kellie Wagner at 789-2259 by September 10, 1999.

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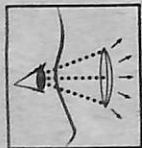


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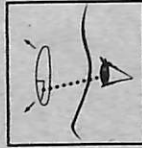
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Offered At Night School...

Robotics Course Not Just For Adults

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

A new course is being added to the fall semester of the Adult Education Program offered at Agawam High School. But, it's not just for adults. In fact, Technology Education Coordinator John Burns is hoping to attract a wide range of ages, including students and their peers.

"I'm in to families working together and this will be the kind of thing they could take home and work on over a weekend, or if parents want to drop the kids off, that's fine, too," Burns said. "I really think families could have some fun with this. And I'd see girls signing up. One of my biggest problems at the High School is that girls don't sign up for the tech ed courses, and things like robotics are mentioned in the curriculum frameworks from the state."

The course outline describes the class as something for everyone from 10 to 100 years-old. It can be something for people who are serious about working with robots or for people who just want something fun and interesting to do at night.

Besides being open to adults, the course is open to students in the Middle, Junior High, and High Schools. However, students will not receive academic credit for taking the course because the class cannot be used to fulfill graduation requirements.

"The most exciting thing for me about bringing the robotics course to the night school is that I've already gotten commitments for five student tuition scholarships from the Society of Manufacturing Engineers and the Western Massachusetts Engineering Society," Burns said. "They are willing to do this because they know this is an important concept to get kids interested in. Robotics are everywhere, but most of us don't think in terms of robotics."

Simple, everyday tasks (like loading the film into a camera or inserting a videotape into a VCR) have been made foolproof through the use of robotics. And devices like prostheses are being constructed every day at the Shriners Hospital to make people's lives less challenging.

Researchers are looking to mimic nature with Biological Electronic Aesthetic Mechanisms (BEAM) at the Los Alamos National Laboratory where BEAM robotics started, and some of that technology will be used in the robotics class.

"We have some excellent equipment in the schools, some from town, some donated as surplus equipment from Hamilton Standard and Pratt & Whitney, but none of the adults in town get to use it," Burns said. "We want this to be a fun, interesting hobby where you learn something. This is not so much a hard and fast class as it is a hobby, and with the expertise I expect to get from the engineering societies and with everyone sharing information, we'll have a great time."

Field Trips To Area Factories...

Class members will get a unique look at robotics in the workplace during field trips to area factories under the auspices of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, Burns said.

Besides working with the new computer-controlled milling machine, class members will have access to leftover photo cells from Los Alamos, special resistance wire that changes length proportional to the amount of electricity flowing through, and all kinds of fancy sensors, motors, and the surplus manufacturing equipment Burns regularly cannibalizes for the parts and to let students learn how things work.

"BEAM robotics can be done for as little as \$30 in parts. It all depends on what you have for spare parts. I never refuse a broken CD player or a Walkman. There's always something in there we can use," Burns said.

After seeing how much the students were learning during a fire-fighting robotics contest at Trinity College while fourth- and fifth-graders constructed robots designed to enter a model house, find the fire (a candle), and put it out, Burns was determined to offer the course through the night school when low enrollment forced the course to be dropped from the High School's course catalogue.

"These are things that Agawam students ought to be doing," Burns said. "I heard those fourth- and fifth-graders discussing ways to convert a Gameboy into a photo cell, and they knew what they were talking about."

Sign-ups for the fall semester will be held on Monday evening, September 13th, and Wednesday evening, September 15th, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Agawam High School Guidance Office. The robotics class will be held on Wednesday evenings beginning on September 22nd. The classes run for 10 weeks; tuition is \$75, payable at registration.

Junior High Tech Ed teacher Jim Graveline will assist Burns in teaching the robotics course.

Looking Back On A Busy Season...



THE BOYS OF Pack 77's Den 8 proudly show off the toolboxes they made at a Home Depot workshop. The Scouts learned tool safety and how to use saws, drills, and hammers. To learn more about Pack 77, stop by our sign-up night on Thursday, September 16th. From left to right: Scouts Austin Santolini, Kristopher Ruehl, Christopher Messier, Joe Gregory, Nick Midura, and Ryan Wheeler.



BACK IN FEBRUARY, the boys of Den 7 were thinking about "sun and fun" at the annual Blue & Gold Banquet. Parents and Scouts enjoyed a beach party themed get-together where Den 7 Scouts received their Bear badges. To find out more about Pack 77's various activities, stop by St. John's Hall on September 16th. From left to right: Scouts Ryan Sullivan, Brett Barker, Nick Sliech, Sean Walsh, Nick Abraham, Gary Theroux, Brenton Schivley, and Dan Matroni.

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Scouts Make Puppets And Birdhouses...



PUTTING ON A PUPPET SHOW for a pack meeting was just one of the many activities the Cub Scouts in Den 1 enjoyed this past year. The boys wrote their play along with creating their sock puppets and theater. To join in the fun of Pack 77 Cub Scouts, stop by St. John's Hall from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, September 16th. From left to right: Scouts Steven Fiedler, Evan Menard, Josh Doherty, Zachary Mongeau, David Pownall, and Kevin Mallory. (Missing from photo: Jonathan O'Brien.)



WHILE ON A FIELD TRIP TO Norcross Sanctuary, the boys of Den 10 learned about bluebirds, their nesting habits, and the efforts to increase bluebird populations. Each Scout built his own birdhouse to hang outside. To learn more about our Scouting program, stop by our sign-up night on Thursday, September 16th, at St. John's Hall. From left to right: Scouts Joey Largay, James Devoe, Anthony Langone, Dan Anderson, Devan Gardner, and Josh Blood.

Warning — A Return To School Signals An Increase In Sports-Related Injuries

As children prepare to return to the classroom this fall, they will also be returning to the playing field for various sports such as football, soccer, and cross-country, as well as other athletic activities, including cheerleading.

"It is estimated that 40 million kids throughout the country participate in athletic activities both in and out of school each year," said Terry Ditmar, a physical therapist and certified strength and conditioning specialist at Baystate Rehabilitation Care at 3300 Main Street, Springfield, a service of Baystate Health System.

"And one in 10 of those students will end up in their local hospital's Emergency Department due to a sports injury," he added.

According to Ditmar, many of these injuries are due to fatigue and poor conditioning.

"It's the rule of 'too's.' Doing too much, too soon, too fast, too hard, and with too little rest. The sad thing is that much of this trauma, in particular that which we consider overuse injury, is preventable," Ditmar said.

"You can't just put ice on these injuries and expect them to go away. Recovery is often slow and very difficult to achieve," he added.

Ditmar explained that when an overuse injury occurs, young athletes should modify the intensity, duration, and/or frequency of the activity to allow the body to recover and heal itself.

He said students, coaches, and parents should be aware of the signs signaling the progressive onset of an overuse injury; initially feeling pain at the beginning of activity, then discomfort throughout practice, leading to soreness during and just after practice; and finally, pain noted in the morning and throughout the day.

But there is also what Ditmar calls "acceptable pain" which goes away in a reasonable amount of

time.

"Some discomfort is normal with the onset of a new or renewed sports activity," Ditmar said, "such as muscle aches or stiffness after hard practice."

This distress is known as "delayed onset muscle soreness," discomfort which develops one or two days after the beginning of intense activity, and typically lasts three to five days.

"Although performance may be reduced for a few days, the body accommodates to the new stress as the muscles become conditioned," he explained.

"But any pain lasting more than five days may indicate a more serious injury which will need the attention of a doctor or physical therapist," Ditmar added.

He also cautioned that when injury does occur, full recovery is "never guaranteed" and that prevention is the key.

Ditmar recommended that "initially you must get fit for your sport rather than use the sport to get fit."

According to the Baystate physical therapist, stretching exercises are one of the most effective ways of preventing injury.

"You should warm up and stretch lightly prior to athletic activity and then stretch more aggressively afterward," said Ditmar. "This of this as

preparing your body for the next bout of exercise."

Ditmar noted that slow, sustained stretching was significantly safe and more effective than bouncing.

"As beneficial as stretching is, it is not a cure-all and will not prevent injuries from occurring when athletes push their bodies too far," Ditmar said.

Also, Ditmar recommended that students see their school's athletic trainer if they are having any "excessive or prolonged discomfort" so that the problem can be addressed before it develops into a serious injury.

Baystate Rehabilitation Care provides a full range of rehabilitation services to assist patients regain function and achieve recovery. Doctors who specialize in rehabilitation medicine, therapists, and other staff members work together to help patients set and reach their goals.

For more information about rehabilitation services throughout Baystate Health System, call (413) 794-8922.

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Cub Pack 75 Seeks To Recruit New Members

Cub Pack 75, sponsored by Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills, is recruiting new members to join the Pack. A boy can join Pack 75 regardless of where he lives, and he does not have to be a member of Sacred Heart Church.

Tiger Cubs is for the first grade. They meet with an adult partner. The program is different from the older boys. We have had groups of Tiger Cubs in our Pack since 1983. Tiger Cubs earn beads and Tiger Paws.

Wolf Rank is for boys in the second grade. They meet weekly, also right up through the fifth grade.

Bear Rank is for the third grade boys. Wolf and Bear Cub Scouts have to complete 12 achievements before receiving their badges. They work on these in the Den meeting as well as at home with parents or adults.

Webelos' first year is for the boys in fourth grade and Webelos' second year is for the boys in the fifth grade.

Second and third grade boys earn cloth badges, while the fourth and fifth grade boys earn metal Activity pins.

We will explain more in detail when you sign up with Pack 75.

The highest rank a boy can earn in Cub Scouts is Arrow of Light.

Once they earn this, they go into Boy Scouts and the highest award in Boy Scouts is the Eagle Rank.

We have had many boys go through Cub Scouts that went onto Boy Scouts and earn the Eagle Award.

We meet weekly and once a month. The Pack gets together for a Pack meeting. This is where the boys earn their badges if they have completed the requirements.

Scouting is a great program for the boys. They go on field trips and take part in Pack, District, and Council events.

For more information, give us a call at 786-2309. In the event there is no answer, please leave a message, including name and telephone number. We will get in touch with you as soon as possible.

Bring a friend or two to join with you. Parents, you are also invited to join the Pack.

Cub Scouting is a family program and you get that quality time with your sons.

Sponsored By WPI...

Thomas Scherpa Part Of Summer Proj. In Venice, Italy

This summer, Thomas Scherpa of Agawam, a senior chemistry major and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Scherpa, took part in Worcester Polytechnic Institute's Venice Project Center.

Led by Professor Richard F. Vaz, WPI students undertook development projects in the Italian city that has been called one of the most beautiful in the world. With its unique historical, artistic, and architectural heritage, Venice has a symbiotic relationship with the surrounding sea and lagoon, which make its famous canals possible. Yet today, this relationship also contributes to serious environmental and economic problems.

The WPI Project Center provided an opportunity for students to see their work benefit an entire city. Projects were conducted for Venetian, American, and international organizations, and included environmental, socioeconomic, artistic, cultural, and technical concerns important to the revitalization of this historic city.

Scherpa was involved in a "Computerized Catalog of Venetian Churches." After the flood of 1966, an International Campaign for the Safeguard of Venice was promoted, and as part of this campaign, a catalog of all churches, convents, and palaces was developed.

But, after 30 years, the paper catalog needed to be computerized and updated. The WPI students did just that, producing a computerized catalog of the approximately 100 Venetian churches based on the paper catalog as well as a past project by WPI students.

WPI, founded in 1865, is renowned for its project-based curriculum. Under the WPI Plan, students integrate classroom studies with research projects conducted on campus and around the world.

* * *

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Information/Sign-Up Night For Pack 77 On Thurs., September 16th

St. John's Pack 77 will be holding its information/sign-up night for incoming cubscouts on Thursday, September 16th, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the church hall.

Boys in grades one through five are welcome to come and find out more about cubscouting. Adult leaders will be available to answer your questions about our scouting program.

Displays of various activities and outings will be in the church hall to show you some of the many things we do. Monthly pack meetings, weekend camping, pinewood derby, blue and gold banquet, scout Sunday, and bottle drives are just a few of the activities we participate in.

Mark your calendar for the 16th to come and join cubscouting. If you have any questions, please call Marcia, 786-3666, Bob, 786-0749, or Cathy, 786-5103.

"Back To School Night" Slated At Ag. Middle School

The Agawam Middle School will hold a "Back To School Night" for parents of fifth-graders on Wednesday, September 8th, and for sixth-graders on Thursday, September 9th, at 7:00 p.m.

Parents of both fifth- and sixth-grade students will follow their child's daily program and meet with the subject teacher in a classroom situation.

The teacher will discuss the course of study, homework assignments, and answer questions parents may have.

Because there is usually a large attendance on these evenings, students should not accompany parents.

All parents will meet at 7:00 p.m. in their child's homeroom, at which time the program for the evening will be explained.

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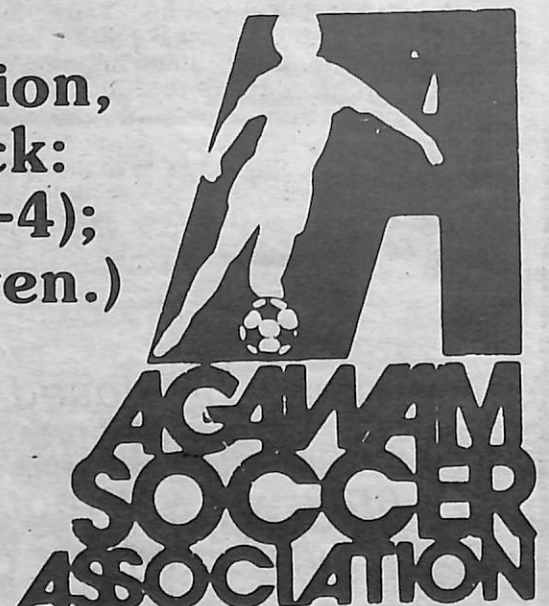
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call Scott Skolnick:
(413) 786-6727 (9-4);
(413) 786-0111 (even.)

Part of the Riverside-
Agawam Soccer
Association Labor
Day Weekend Classic



Agawam Schools' Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, September 6th: No school (Labor Day).

Tuesday, September 7th: Oven-baked pizza wedge, pepperoni topping, garden salad with spinach greens and dressing, chilled pears in syrup, milk.

Wednesday, September 8th: Steamed frankfurt in roll, oven potato rounds, cat-sup, seasoned green beans, chilled fruit cup, chocolate cake with mocha icing, milk.

Thursday, September 9th: Cheeseburg in roll, steamed rice, seasoned niblet corn, peaches in syrup or chocolate oatmeal bar, milk.

Friday, September 10th: Meatballs in tomato sauce, seasoned broccoli and macaroni blend, Italian bread and butter, rosy applesauce, ice cream, milk.

Information On The Upcoming SAT I & II Tests At Agawam High

The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT I - SAT II) will be administered at Agawam High School on **Saturday, October 9, 1999; Saturday, November 6, 1999; and Saturday, May 6, 2000.**

Seniors are encouraged to take the exam(s) on October 9th or November 6th. It is given on other dates during the school year at other test centers.

Registration forms are available in the High School guidance office. Deadline dates for registering for the test are noted on the registration form. If these are missed, students will be assessed a late fee. The earlier a student registers, he/she will have a better chance of being tested at Agawam High School.

The May 6th testing date is designated as the first testing date for juniors.

The Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test, commonly referred to as the PSAT's, will be given to most juniors and some sophomores on Saturday, October 16, 1999. The registration fee is \$14.

The PSAT serves as an excellent pre-test for the May 6th SAT. Information will be forthcoming to juniors and sophomores in September.

The \$14 fee is paid to the guidance secretary in return for an admission ticket to the test. Students will receive an informative brochure explaining the details of the test.

Counselors will also discuss this test with the juniors and a limited number of sophomores.

Boxtops Collection To Continue At James Clark School

James Clark School wants to remind everyone to continue collecting those boxtops, UPC's, and receipts over the summer. As this past year has shown, those points add up into TV's, a VCR, recess equipment, and boxtop cash.

So, during this summer, don't throw out those boxtops and UPC's, but save them for back to school in September.

Please save your General Mills BoxTops for Education, Campbell/Pepperidge Farm labels, Duracell Battery UPC's, Kool Aid points, and lids from Stonyfield Farm Yogurts, Brigham's Ice Cream, and Elan Frozen Yogurt.

Also, receipts from Bob's Stores, Men's Wearhouse, Kmart ShoeMart, The Big Party, Monro Muffler/Brake, Pep Boys, and Hit or Miss.

With everyone saving, our points will quickly add up and we can continue to earn valuable items for our school. Thanks, and see you in September!

* * *

Our office will be closed on Monday, Labor Day (September 6th); we will reopen on Tuesday, September 7th, at 6:30 a.m.

* * *

Agawam Adult Education

760 Cooper Street
Agawam, MA 01001
Telephone 821-0527 or 821-0522
Director - Paul C. Cavallo

Registration for the fall semester of the Agawam Adult Education program will be held on Monday evening, September 13th, and Wednesday evening, September 15th, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Agawam High School Guidance Office.

Classes will begin on Monday, September 20th, and run for 10 weeks, ending on December 6th.

There will be **no school** on the following dates: Monday, October 11, 1999 (Columbus Day); Thursday, November 11, 1999 (Veterans' Day); Monday and Wednesday, November 22 and 24, 1999 (Thanksgiving week).

Notification of school closing: If Agawam schools are closed due to inclement weather, evening school is also closed. Local radio stations will also announce any cancellations. Make-up days for inclement weather will be scheduled during the term.

The tuition charge is \$75 per course and is payable at the time of registration. No refunds will be given after the second class meeting. Tuition will be refunded if there is an insufficient number of students registered for a course(s). The administration reserves the right to cancel course(s) for lack of registration.

The following is a list of the courses and the nights they are being offered this semester:

Monday Classes: English 11, English 12, General Science, World History, Geometry, Algebra I, Algebra II, EXCEL, and Windows 95 (PowerPoint and Access).

Wednesday Classes: English 9, English 10, U.S. History, Chemistry, General Math, Computer Concepts, Microsoft WORD 97, Oil Painting, and Robotics.

Amy Jennifer Bressem Earns Degree From Brevard College

Brevard College awarded degrees to 99 students in May, including 36 four-year baccalaureate bachelor of arts degrees, 39 associate in arts degrees, 18 associate in science degrees, five associate in fine arts degrees, and one junior college diplomas.

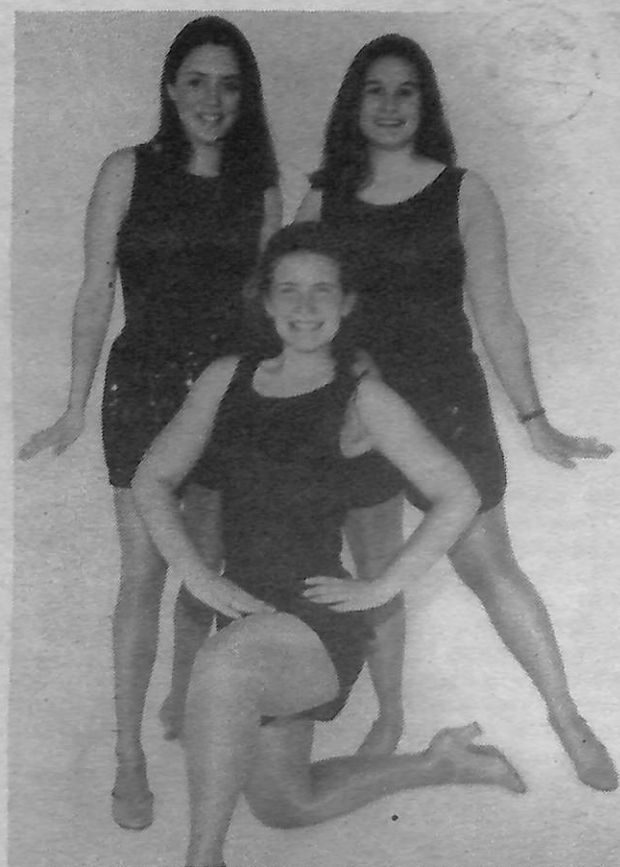
Among the 1999 graduates was **Amy Jennifer Bressem**, daughter of Ms. Joyce Mathews Bressem-Greonger of Feeding Hills, who graduated with a bachelor of arts degree.

Affiliated with the United Methodist Church, Brevard College is a residential liberal arts college located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina.

Brevard College currently offers a wide variety of baccalaureate degree programs, including music, art, environmental studies, organizational leadership, wilderness education and experiential education, exercise science, history, and mathematics.

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* * *



DARCEY CAVANAUGH, ANDREA PROVA, AND SARA LATIF were featured dancers in "The Mary Ann Studio of Dance" performance for the American Heart Association — "Dance For Heart."

"Mary Ann Dancers" Support American Heart Association

Over 200 of the "Mary Ann Dancers" collected pledges from their communities of Agawam, Springfield, and vicinity to support the American Heart Association's programs of research and education.

The Mary Ann Studio of Dance students performed routines from their annual recital and raised \$2,542.10.

They have been happy to raise money for this worthwhile cause and at the same time demonstrate their dance artistry, which helps maintain good health.

"Back To School" Dance Party At St. David's Church

On Saturday, September 11th from 7:00-10:00 p.m., St. David's Church is hosting a BACK TO SCHOOL DANCE PARTY for youth in grades seven through 12.

There will be music and music videos. Mark's Rolling Dance Revue will provide music. Join us for an evening of great music and dancing or just come and hang out with your friends.

There will be contests and prizes. The dance will be held in the parking lot if the weather permits. We will move indoors if necessary, so plan on coming no matter what the weather.

Refreshments will be available for a small fee. St. David's is located next the Agawam Police Station at 699 Springfield Street in Feeding Hills. For additional information, call 786-6133 or visit www.maxpages.com/ACTS.

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Sports

Gearing Up For The New Season...

AHS's Fall Coaches Discuss Their Philosophies Regarding Athletics

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

We are on the verge of the fall sports season. The eight teams who'll carry the Agawam High colors are hard at work on their various practice fields. The coaches are hard at work as well trying to firm up their final rosters for varsity competition.

Of the eight varsity mentors, four are new to that position. Football has **Tad Desautels**. Tad is 28 and was a lifelong resident of South Hadley before moving to Tolar, Texas two years ago. There, he coached football, Texas-style. He hopes to turn around the team, which finished up at 4-6 last season.

Desautels' philosophy of coaching is this: "I have to make sure that the kids are put in a position to have the opportunity to win. I do that by telling them they have to outwork the competition by practicing hard and smart, and playing the same way and by being prepared to give their best at all times."

Desautels is a new physical education teacher at the High School. He has this philosophy on education: "I try to educate the kids that fitness is a lifelong pursuit, not just something you do in school during class. If you stay fit for life, you will have a much happier, longer life."

The Brownie football squad has a scrimmage this Saturday on the road against Stonington, Connecticut. They scrimmage Hoosic Valley on Saturday, September 11th at Harmon Smith and open against visiting Greenfield, Friday night, September 17th.

Glenn Olson is the new boys' soccer coach, taking over for Dwight Northrup. Last year, the team went 6-10-2 and missed the playoffs. Olson, who was the long-time junior varsity boys' soccer coach, hopes to turn the program around and get them back into the playoffs, which they missed for the first time in five years. Olson is a new teacher at the High School. The boys open Thursday, September 9th by hosting Amherst Regional.

Girls' soccer sees newcomer **Laura Wray** at the helm. It is her first varsity coaching job. She takes over a team that went 7-7-4 last season, went to the playoffs, and lost in the first round to Central. Wray's philosophy of coaching goes like this: "You are always trying to reach the next step of excellence. You try to get the kids as prepared as possible to go there. Positive reinforcement,

along with hard work and a love of the game, are the main ingredients for success."

She teaches English at the Junior High. "Academics are always first on the list for any educator. A kid can't perform on the field if they don't make the effort to perform in the classroom. Learning is a lifelong thing. And it goes both ways. We teach and hope the kids learn. We, in turn, can learn from the kids," she said.

Wray is currently getting her master's in an

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accelerated program at Leslie College in Longmeadow.

Girls' soccer opens their season on Friday, September 10th, in a 7:00 p.m. game at highly-ranked Ludlow High.

Alison Bonnyman is the new gymnastics coach. She is 25 years-old. She did her undergraduate work at Providence College and her graduate work at UMass Amherst. She teaches French at the Junior High. It's her first varsity coaching job. She has this philosophy on coaching: "I feel it is the coach's responsibility to see that the kids get the most out of their individual abilities. Fun is part of athletics and competition. Even practice should be fun. I also seek to instill self-esteem in the kids and encourage them to cooperate as a team."

"The kids come first as far as education goes," Bonnyman said. "As educators, I feel we should give them every opportunity to learn by helping them in the classroom any way we can."

The coach, who was a gymnast at Hingham High School in Eastern Mass., admits to being a little nervous as the season approaches.

The team kicks off the 1999 season on Thursday, September 23rd at Minnechaug Regional in a meet that includes Amherst. AHS has been a gymnastics power over the past few years.

Field hockey sees **Carla Lemnah-Warner** back for her fourth year. She will try to improve upon their 3-8-5 record in 1998. She has this philosophy on coaching: "I've always said the game mirrors life. What you put into it is what you get out of it. It all comes down to commitment, honesty, integrity, and enjoying yourself."

Lemnah-Warner teaches integrated language skills at the High School. "I tell my kids to stop making excuses for failure. Instead, I try to have them find reasons for success."

Pat Demers is back for her second season as the girls' varsity volleyball coach. She hopes that with experience, the girls, in the second year of the new program, will continue to improve. Her philosophy of coaching is this: "I try to impress upon them that enjoyment of the game is very important. They can play volleyball for most of their lives. Sports teaches you to work together and helps your self-esteem."

Demers, who is a former independent insurance

agent and has spent most of her life involved in volleyball as an official, noted that education is a motivational thing. "You should try to get everything afforded to you from school. It's all there, right in front of you. People are there to help see that you reap the benefits. And many times, academic success goes hand-in-hand with the enjoyment of scholastic athletics."

Volleyball opens Wednesday, September 8th at Dean Tech.

It's the second season at AHS for cross-country Coach **Bill Dillon**, a 20-year veteran of the sport in Western Mass. He has this philosophy as far as coaching goes: "The point is to enjoy the whole experience, whether you are a star or otherwise. If I see a kid doing that, then it is personally satisfying to me. It is also satisfying to see some kids find themselves and gain confidence. Winning is important for sure, but it isn't the only thing."

The coach teaches health and fitness at the High School. "I think the important thing is to reach as many kids as possible, and get them to learn by making things make sense to them."

Cross-country opens its season Monday, September 13th in a dual meet at Forest Park against Cathedral and Minnechaug.

Paul Bachini is back for his 19th season as the varsity golf coach. "I enjoy seeing kids come into the program as freshmen and with some help, progress along the way and emerge as responsible young men with a sense of direction. Hopefully, I can make a difference with them," he said when pondering his philosophy of coaching.

Bachini teaches physical education at the Granger Elementary School. On education, he has this to say, "You are a product of whatever came before you. You make mistakes and learn by listening and doing. You have to know people the best you can and make adjustments along the way."

Golf opens up Thursday, September 9th, at the Agawam Municipal Golf Course against Sci. Tech.

It will still be a few more days before the varsity rosters for all the sports are finalized. And for some teams, it will take a couple contests into the season to see what they have.

We'll have a complete season preview in the next edition of *The Agawam Advertiser News*.



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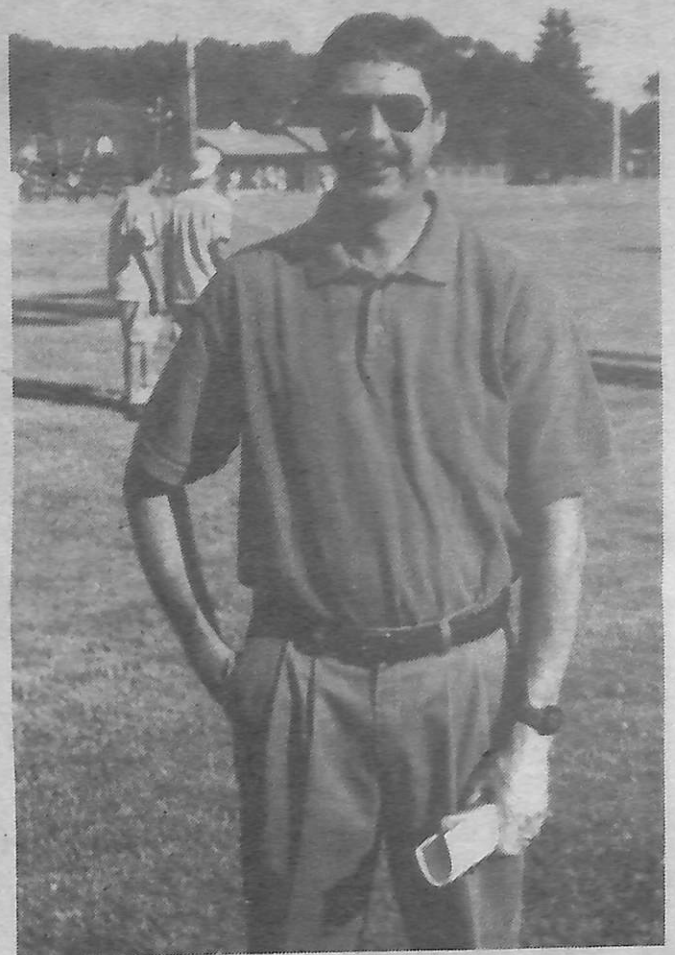
The Coaches Of AHS's Fall Campaign...



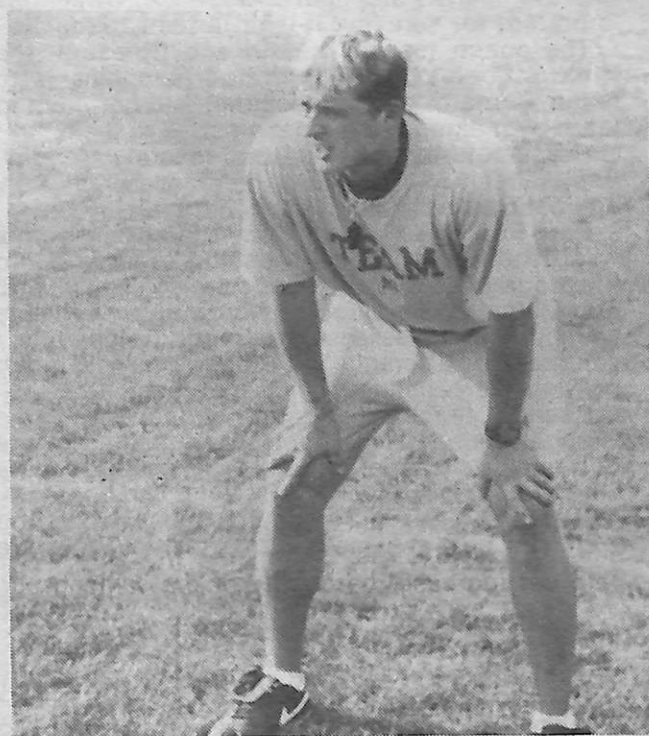
PAT DEMERS (Girls' Varsity Volleyball)



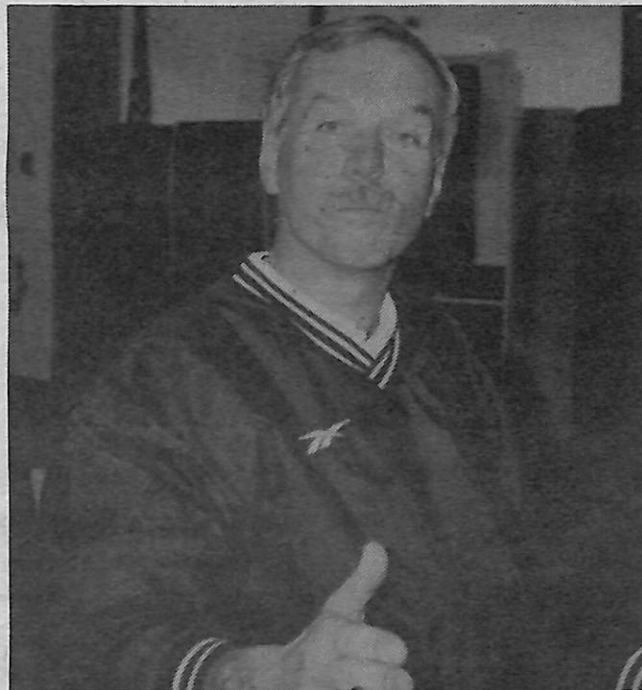
LAURA WRAY (Girls' Varsity Soccer)



BILL DILLON (Cross-Country)



TAD DESAUTELS (Football)



PAUL BACHINI (Varsity Golf)



ALISON BONNYMAN (Gymnastics)



CARLA LEMNAH-WARNER (Field Hockey)

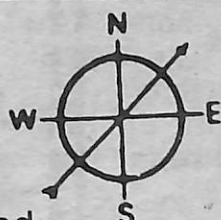
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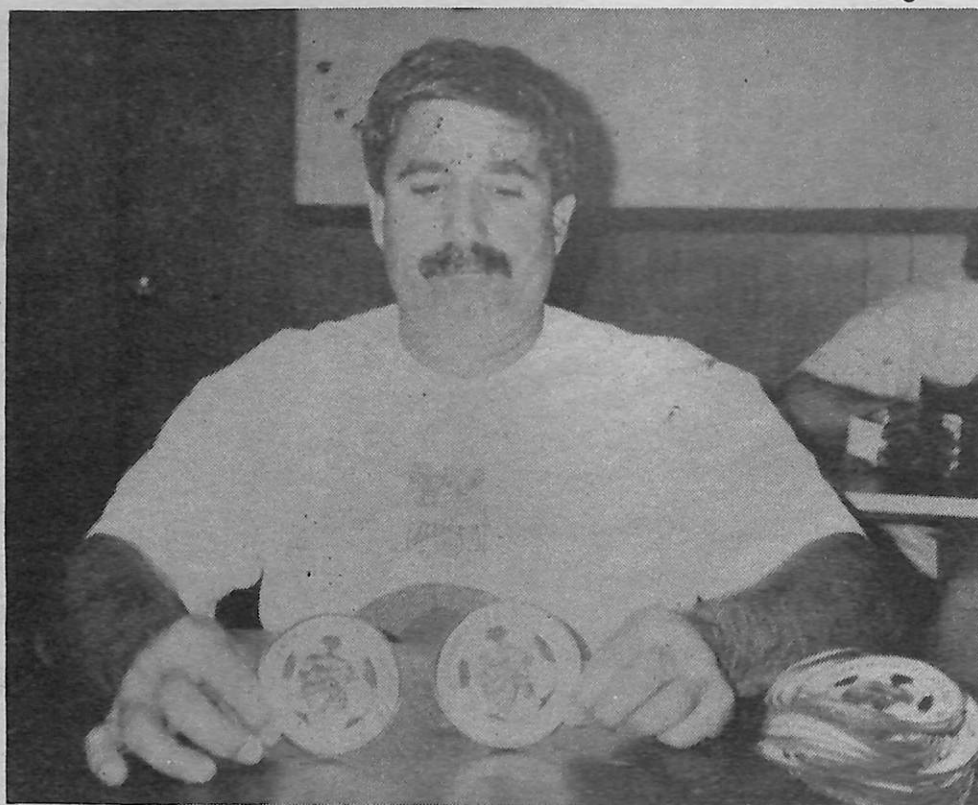
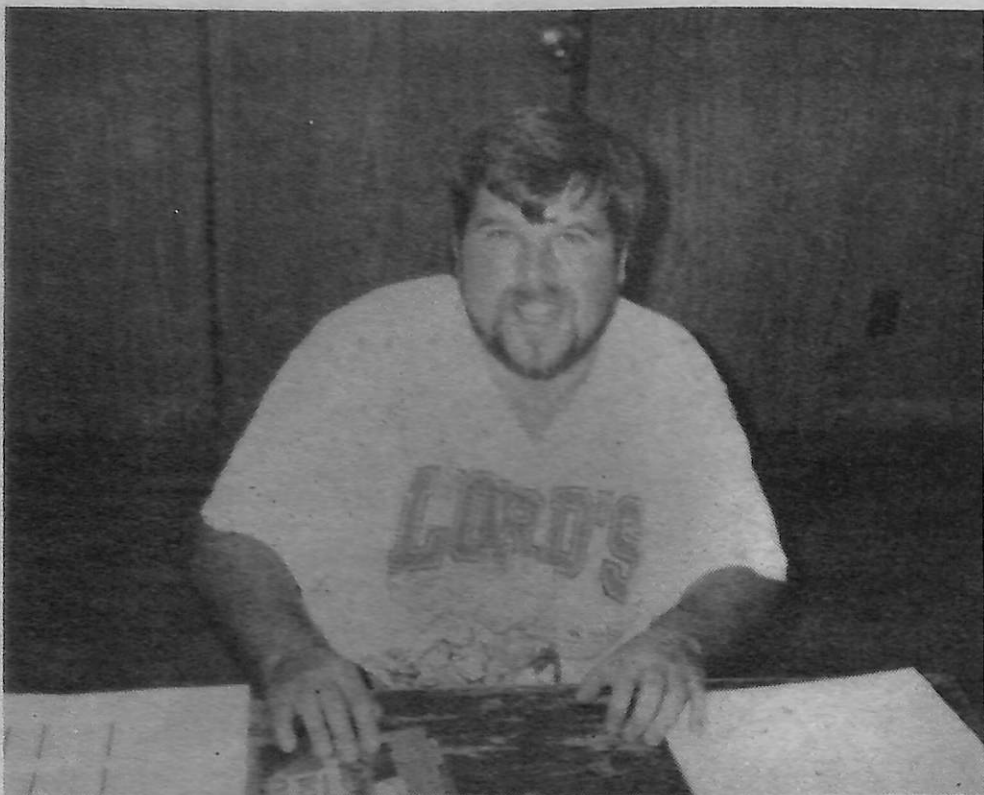
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Gene Lubarsky And Eric Lubarsky Of Agawam



IN LEFT PHOTO: Steve Rollins, the new Tournament Director for the Riverside Labor Day Weekend Soccer Classic. IN RIGHT PHOTO: Dan Sullivan of Agawam (the U-13 boys' soccer coach) displays Agawam Soccer Association patches. Advertiser News photos by Dave Rollins.

The 15th Edition...

Agawam Soccer Assoc. To Host Riverside Labor Day Weekend Soccer Classic

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Before you know it, the Riverside Labor Day Weekend Soccer Classic will once again be right on the doorstep. The 15th Annual edition of the classic is scheduled for this weekend at many soccer fields in Agawam under the direction of the Agawam Soccer Association.

This time around, the classic will have a new Tournament Director - Steve Rollins. He takes over for former Director Jim Stevenson. "This is my first time at this job. Actually, it's my first time on the tournament committee," Steve, a resident of the town and a youth soccer coach, told us.

But he seems to have guided things through without too many glitches. The committee responsible for this huge undertaking held their final meeting Monday evening, August 30th, at the Italian Sporting Club. It was short and sweet. "We were really just tying up loose ends, making sure everything was up to speed," Steve noted.

Everything does indeed seem ready for one of the biggest youth soccer tournaments in New England. There will be 118 teams attending from Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire, and Maine. Only Vermont will not be represented. "I think they have some catching up to do on soccer in that state," Steve noted. Teams from Portland, Maine will travel the longest distance. Agawam will have 18 teams of its own attending from U-10 to U-14, both boys and girls.

"In the past, we've had as many as 135 teams participate. But we tried to keep it under 120 this time around," Steve said. A lot of it has to do with field space. They will use 16 fields this year, as opposed to 14 last time around. The fields will be located at the High School, the Junior High, Phelps School, and the Robinson Park site at the pool. "We've expanded the Robinson site by two fields because we seem to be getting more U-14 boys' and girls' teams as well as a lot of U-10's, both boys and girls. Those age groups need different dimensions in their playing fields, so the additions will help them," Steven explained. He

also noted that for some unknown reason, the boys' and girls' U-13's are down this year.

All the teams will play two games on Saturday and two on Sunday. The competition starts at 7:55 a.m. and ends at 7:00 p.m. both days. The championship round will be Monday, Labor Day. Trophies will be handed out after those games.

A Big Treat

A big treat Saturday night will be the collegiate soccer game at Harmon Smith Field. This year, the UMass women's team will battle Syracuse University. Traditionally, it has always been a great game. Gates open at 6:00 p.m. The game will be at 7:30. Tickets will be on sale at the classic and expect a large crowd.

Steve cited some logistical problems that have to be solved before the games begin. The first is registering all the teams. The second is creating a work schedule. "That's daunting. Here, in the 18 teams representing the ASA Pioneer Valley Junior Soccer League, we need to get 30 parent volunteers. We get them, but then their work shifts have to be arranged. And scheduling 540 people for two-and-a-half-hour shifts, four times a day, for three days, is a task," Steve said.

Then there's security. Every site has to have someone on hand overnight to make sure things in place don't suddenly walk off. That means campers or tents to house the night shift. Of course, the Agawam police are there for security during the day. But they also have their own patrols and at night, they can't be expected to be everywhere.

But it all seems to work out, according to Steve. And the bottom line, according to him, is why the Agawam kids play for the cheapest rates in the Pioneer Valley - about \$35 for signing up. "Registration for all the teams entering the classic brings in about \$28,000. Advertising in the program produces another \$10,000. Concessions, food, and t-shirt sales bring in more money. Then there is the revenue from the soccer game on

Saturday night. That's a lot of money. And after costs are deducted, it all goes back to the Agawam Pioneer Valley teams."

Then he added, "Plus, our kids get a great opportunity to play some of the very best competition in New England."

"More than once I've looked down the registration list and seen dozens of champions in all the various leagues they represent; teams with unbeaten or barely blemished records loaded with outstanding athletes. Opponents like that can't help but increase the quality of play among our kids."

The visiting teams have their accommodations in place. They'll be staying in Springfield at the Holiday Inn and at the Sheraton. They'll also be put up at the Sheraton at Bradley Airport and the Double Tree Inn just a couple miles from the airfield.

A Big Effort By Many People

Of course, something as big as the Riverside Soccer Classic takes a big effort. Steve wanted to recognize some of the folks who put in the time and sweat to make this year's festivities a reality: Steve Maloni (hotels), Judy Gonyeau (registration), Paul Lagasse (scheduling and work schedules, plus filling in for Steve for two weeks during the summer), Linda Comee (food and beverages), Herb Hall (specialty sales), Dick Fay (referees), Dave Shaw (president of the Agawam Soccer Association), Peg Stearley (treasurer), Denny Marr (program book), Scott Skolnick (UMass/Syracuse game director), Kevin Pfau (trophies), Mike Obue (Director of Field Operations), Mike Fournier (Director of Field Coordination), and Dee Adams (official scorer).

"There are so many more that could be mentioned," Steve smiled. "But we all know who they are and they have our gratitude as well."

If you would like to volunteer to work the classic in any way, call Steven Rollins at 789-6035.

Fishing Tournament In Honor Of Stephen J. Cass

On March 29, 1998, 21 year-old Stephen Jonathon Cass of Westfield died from a brain injury. In honor of Stephen and his love of fishing, a fishing tournament will be held on Sunday, September 12th, beginning at 7:00 a.m. at Congamond Lakes in Southwick. All proceeds from the tournament will be donated to the Aitken Neuroscience Center in New York. This non-profit agency is committed to brain injury research, brain death, and education.

Entry fee for the tournament is \$100 per team of two people and pre-registration is not required. There is a bass six-fish limit per team. One thousand dollars will be awarded to the first-place winner and six other cash prizes will be awarded.

The tournament is sponsored by the Stephen Jonathon Cass Memorial Committee. For more information or registration forms, contact Jodi Lee Potts at 413-562-5771 or Barbara Robitaille at 413-568-7127.

Dave Rollins Announces His Own Web Page

"Write to me at daverollinssports@yahoo.com," encourages AAN Sports Editor Dave Rollins. "The High School fall sports season is starting in Western Mass., as well as in New England and around the country. Let's talk about the blue chippers in our part of Massachusetts - how do you think they're going to do?"

"And, as the season progresses, we'll talk about their performances and possible possibilities for further glory in col-

lege. Maybe we can get some scouts interested in them."

"Because, as we've all noticed, most of the kids seem to be from Florida, Texas, other southern states, the midwest, and out west. There have to be some outstanding ones right here in our back yard worthy of recognition on a national scale."

"Please feel free to submit precise and updated statistics whenever you can, because I'll have mine and we can compare notes," concluded Rollins.

THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE to purchase tickets for Jack Devine's retirement party on Sunday, September 12th, at Chez Josef in Agawam. Please call 789-0721

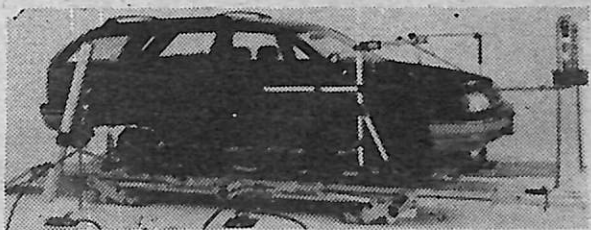
Italian Sporting Club Holds Second Golf Tournament...



THE ITALIAN SPORTING CLUB held its Second Annual Golf Tournament on Saturday, August 14th, at the Agawam Golf Course. IN LEFT PHOTO: The team of Bob DeSimone, Louis Gozzi, Joe Gozzi, and Pat Brown won the tournament. IN RIGHT PHOTO: Pat Brown points at the tournament plaque with two fingers to signify that his teammates are "repeat" champions.

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Golf Tip Of The Week...

Compiled by
Jim Modzelesky,
PGA
Oak Ridge Golf Club,
Feeding Hills, MA

Legwork...

When you begin to tire on the golf course, it's your legs that are first to go. And when they get tired, your swing gets out of whack. Then it becomes a vicious cycle.

Tired legs, bad swing, bad shots, more shots, more walking, legs even more tired...

So here's the drill: Exercise more, by running or by riding a bicycle, stationary or otherwise. PGA Tour pros like Raymond Floyd and John Mahaffey added years to their careers when a fitness van began to follow the PGA Tour around.

It's also the reason so many Senior Tour players can maintain such a long schedule throughout the year.

So even though it sounds simple, it makes sense: Strong legs will save you several strokes late in a round.

On Saturday, August 28th...

Dave Berube Victorious In 150-Lap Bud Triple Crown Modified Event

Connors And Miller Earn Triple Crown Series Honors At Riverside Speedway

Dave Berube of Bristol, CT, was the victor in the 150-lap NAPA Modified event at Riverside Park Speedway on Saturday night, August 28th. Berube took the lead on lap 78 and fought off current point leader Ricky Miller and six-time champion Bob Polverari before settling in for the win.

In the Teddy Bear Pools Pro Stocks, Jeff Connors of Ellington, CT, took down the win, and the Budweiser Triple Crown Championship title. Mike Salmond of Ludlow, MA, won in the Teddy Bear Pools Truck division, and Henry Petrie, Jr. of Southwick, MA, took home the Sportsman honors.

Ricky Miller and Bob Polverari tied in the points for the Modified division Bud Triple Crown title. Miller was awarded the championship based on best finishing position during the series.

In an action-packed, 150-lap Modified feature, drivers sliced and diced their way to the front. Ed Flemke, Jr. took the early lead and seemed to be headed for victory, until an altercation entering the third turn sent him out of control. Flemke made contact with two other cars before he was able to maneuver his battered race car into the infield.

This opened the door for Dave Berube, with Ted Christopher right on his heels. Christopher challenged for several laps before mechanical problems knocked him out of the event. Following Berube to the checkers was Ricky Miller, Bob Polverari, Renee Dupuis, and Joe Czarnecki.

Jeff Connors had the cream of the class to deal with, as three-time Pro Stock Champion Eddy Carroll was within striking distance for the final 100 laps of the 150-lap event.

"I beat the best tonight!" exclaimed Connors during the victory lane interview. Eddy Carroll of Longmeadow, MA, was second, third went to Barry Gray of Belchertown, MA, Jay Miller of East Granby, CT, was fourth, and Tim Strojny of Southamp-ton, MA, was fifth. Connors took home the \$2,000 check for victory and an additional \$1,000 for winning the Bud Triple Crown.

The Teddy Bear Pools Truck division saw a different winner as Mike Salmond of Ludlow, MA, took down his first victory of the 1999 season in the 30-lap event. Mike took the lead on the second lap and held off a determined Jim Larsen in the early laps. Ernie Tarca stepped up to challenge, with Rob Valerio in tow. Valerio was able to squeeze by Tarca with two laps to go for the second-place finish. Tarca settled for third, followed by E.J. Lagacy in fourth and Ted Chalmers rounding out the top five.

In the Sportsman division, it was Henry Petrie, Jr. taking down his second victory of the season in front of Beau LeBeau, Dennis Brilla, Norm Ashline, and Derek McLellan.

This Saturday, September 4th, will mark the final appearance of the Featherlite Modified Series at Riverside Park Speedway, with the running of the Sunoco Race Fuels/Featherlite Trailers 200.

Then on Sunday, September 5th, Riverside Park Speedway will feature the last School Bus Demo Derby at the speedway, along with the Thrills and Spills Series.



IN LEFT PHOTO: Keith Orlen (right) with Tournament Director Daryl Amaral. IN RIGHT PHOTO: Host Christian Amaral (left) with Billy Menard of Agawam, who placed third in the Boys' 13-15 division.



Amaral Junior Open Is Again Successful At Oak Ridge Golf Club

With a record-breaking field of young golfers competing, the Ninth Annual Joseph Amaral Junior Golf Open was held at Oak Ridge Golf Club in Feeding Hills on July 22nd. An official stop on the Connecticut Section PGA's Mountain Dew junior tour circuit, the event drew another talented group of juniors from throughout New England to vie for the title and a wide range of prizes.

As the winner of this year's Boys 16-18 division title, Keith Orlen received a \$250 scholarship as well as golf shop credit for his 1-under par 69.

Amanda Lennox bested the Girls Age 13-18 division with a score of 77, while the Boys 13-15 division title went to Steve Alminas, who carded a 4-under par 66.

Mark Scytkowski shot a 36 for nine holes to win the Boys 10-12 division, and Alyssa Severyn

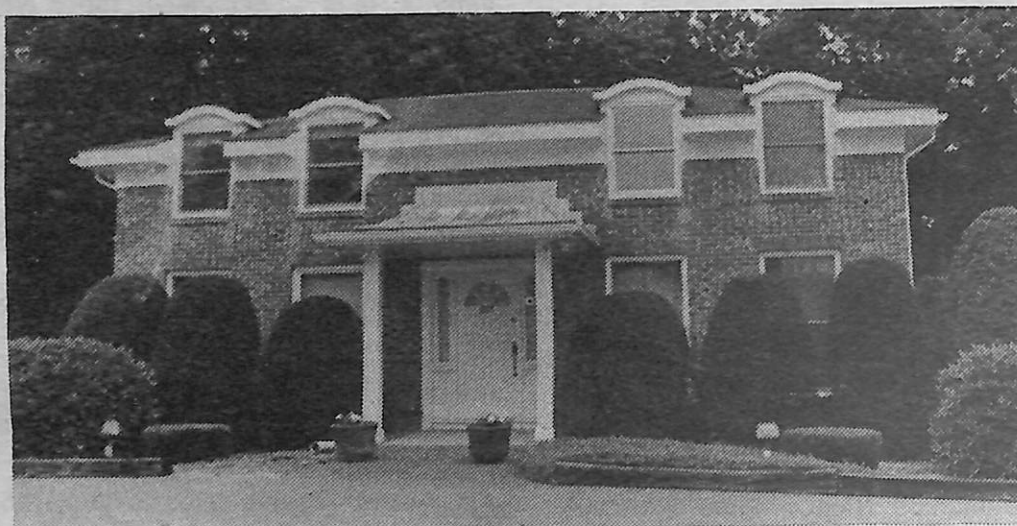
scored a 42 to prevail over the Girls 10-12 division.

Thanks to the continued support of the management and membership of the Oak Ridge Golf Club, the Connecticut Section PGA, and Mountain Dew, each participant received lunch and a sleeve of balls during the day for a fraction of the cost of a normal greens fee. While the top 10 in each division were given credit in the golf shop, the top three players in each division also received plaques and trophies for their exemplary play.

The Amaral family would like to thank all those locally who supported this year's event for their participation, time, and/or financial support — most especially everyone at Oak Ridge, as well as head pro Jim Modzelesky and his dedicated golf staff.

Our office will be closed on Monday, Labor Day (September 6th); we will reopen on Tuesday, September 7th, at 6:30 a.m.

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Riverside Prepares For Final Featherlite Modified Series Race

On Saturday, September 4th, NASCAR's only open-wheel racing division will make its final appearance at Riverside Park Speedway with the running of the Sunoco/Featherlite Trailers 200. Hailed as one of the cornerstones of Modified stock car racing for the past five decades, the famous quarter-mile speedway in Agawam will close its doors for good at the end of the 1999 season.

The final appearance of the Featherlite Modified Series will also mark the first time since 1995 that "The Park" has hosted two Series events in the same year. Ed Flemke, Jr., winner of the Pepsi 200 on April 18th, says he hopes for a better qualifying effort in his No. 79 Hill Enterprises Pontiac.

"Hopefully, we won't have to start in the back again," says Flemke, "because the same strategy doesn't always work twice!" Flemke of Southington, CT, won the Pepsi 200 after coming from behind to edge out Reggie Ruggiero, the track's all-time winningest driver.

Flemke's father, Ed Sr., won the 1956 and 1958 Riverside Park Speedway track championships, opening the doors his son will now close. "Being a man of simple words, my father would probably say, 'That's a shame.' He was around when Danbury and other tracks closed, and he blamed the promoters, but it's not always that simple. To me, it's sad to see anything go away, anything with such history; it's had such character," continued Flemke.

Director of Auto Racing David Deery is equally emotional about the final appearance of the Featherlite Modified Series under his watch at Riverside Park.

"I know this race will be a sentimental time for fans throughout the area," stated Deery. "There is no question that the Featherlite Modified Series is one of NASCAR's premier divisions, and the teams and fans have lifetimes of memories here at Riverside. We'll throw the checkered flag for the race with mixed emotions."

Over 60 entries are expected for the 28 starting positions in the Sunoco/Featherlite Trailers 200, which will place a premium on Saturday's time trials.

"The stakes are high for every fraction of a second. The drivers are excited to make the field and be a part of this historic event," stated Deery. "Plus, we've added a 35-lap 'Featherlite Trailers Shootout' race for one more starting position. That will certainly add to the weekend's excitement for our fans."

The initial positions on the 28-car starting grid will be determined by one round of time trials and six provisional starting awards. Also in action on September 4th will be the Teddy Bear Pools Pro Stock division, the Teddy Bear Pools Truck division, and the Sportsman division.

Riverside Park Speedway's venerable grandstands will open to the public at 3:00 p.m., and qualifying will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Adult tickets for the Sunoco/Featherlite Trailers 200 are \$29.99 each, available at the Main Gate on race day only. Juniors (ages 12 to 16) are \$4 each, and children (ages 11 and under) are free when accompanied by an adult.

For more information, call (413) 786-9300 or visit www.riversideparkspeedway.com on the world wide web.

More Upcoming Events:

September 5th: Thrills and Spills Series - SCHOOL BUS DEMOLITION DERBY! Plus Enduro, Super Stocks, Mini Stocks, Spectacular Drags, and more.

September 11th: NASCAR Winston Racing Series Championships Night - Final NASCAR Winston Racing Series Points Race!

October 3rd: Thrills and Spills Series - Budweiser \$5,000 Full-Size Enduro, plus \$2,500 4 Cylinder Enduro and \$1,000 Demolition Derby.

October 15th-17th: The Final Ride Race Weekend. Three days of feature events, including NASCAR Modifieds, SK Modifieds, Pro Stocks, Outlaw Late Models, Legends, and more.

THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE to purchase tickets for Jack Devine's retirement party on Sunday, September 12th, at Chez Josef in Agawam. Please call 789-0721 this weekend...



Outdoors New England

by Kent Servis
Outdoor Writer

With the end of summer in sight, the annual fall tuna fishery is beginning to blossom. For those of us who do not have a 30-foot ocean boat that is capable of making the run to the edge of the continental shelf, there is hope.

The Yankee Captains out of Gloucester, MA, The Helen-H out of Hyannis, and others run some fine overnight tuna trips for the cost-conscious angler. This is a limited-party, boat-style trip that takes a minimum number of anglers to allow fishing room.

The ships are complete with air-conditioned berthing compartments and offer a full galley menu. To get the most out of the hours spent on the water, the trips leave the night before and spend plenty of time on the tuna grounds.

MIGRATORY BIRD REGULATIONS SET

The Fisheries and Wildlife Board set Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations at a public hearing held on August 26th at the UMass Cranberry Experiment Station in Wareham. MassWildlife Waterfowl Project Leader H. Heusmann advises that a limited regular Canada goose season will reopen in the Berkshire Zone after having been closed for four years. This is in response to an increase in the number of breeding Canada geese on the northern Quebec nesting grounds.

Heusmann reminds sportsmen that a federal HIP number is required to hunt woodcock and waterfowl and is valid for one calendar year. Sportsmen and women with a current 1999 HIP number are set until the end of the year, while others (who may just be buying a hunting license for the fall season) need to call 1-800-WETLAND to obtain a 1999 HIP number.

A new HIP number must be acquired for the 2000 calendar year, and separate HIPs are needed for each state a waterfowler chooses to hunt.

Sea duck hunters should note the changes in the species composition for the seven-bird daily bag limit. Specifically, only four birds of any one sea duck group (scoter, eider, or oldsquaw) may be taken as part of the limit. Further, no more than one female eider would be allowed.

These changes will provide for a conservative harvest of eiders, whose population is being influenced by increased hunting pressure, gull-predation of ducklings, disease, and competition for shellfish food resources.

The following is a summary of season dates, bag limits, possession limits, and waterfowl zones pertaining to migratory bird hunting during the 1999-2000 season:

Virginia Rails — September 1st to November, 10 bag, 10 pos.

Sora Rails — September 1st to November 9th, 5 bag, 5 pos.

Snipe — September 1st to December 15th, 8 bag, 16 pos.

Woodcock — October 16th to November 15th, 3 bag, 6 pos.

Ducks (Berkshire) — October 11th to December 18th; Black Duck closure — November 15th-20th, 6 bag, 12 pos.

Ducks (Central) — October 14th to November 27th and December 16th to January 8th; Black Duck closure — November 15th-20th, 6 bag, 12 pos.

Ducks (Coastal) — October 14th-30th and November 18th to January 8th; Black Duck closure — November 29th to December 4th and January 3rd-8th, 6 bag, 12 pos.

Amer. Coot — same dates as ducks, 15 bag, 30 pos.

Mergansers — same dates as ducks, 5 bag, 10 pos.

Geese (Berkshire) — Nov. 11th-27th, 1 bag, 2 pos.

Geese (Central) — October 14th to November 27th and December 16th, 2 bag, 4 pos.

Geese (Coastal) — October 14th to November 1st and November 18th to December 15th, 2 bag, 4 pos.



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Canada Goose (Berk.) — September 7th-25th (Early Season), 3 bag, 6 pos.

Canada Goose (Central, Coastal) — September 7th-25th (Early Season), 5 bag, 10 pos.

Canada Goose (Central, Coastal) — January 15th to February 5th (Late Season, N. of Marshfield in Coastal), 5 bag, 10 pos.

Snow/Blue Geese — same dates as Ducks and late-season Canada Goose, 15 bag, 30 pos.

Sea Ducks — October 6th to January 20th (bag not to include more than 4 scoter, 4 eider [1 hen], or 4 oldsquaw), 7 bag, 14 pos.

Brant (Coastal Only) — November 18th to January 14th, 2 bag, 4 pos.

Falconry — October 6th to January 20th (Ducks and Coot only, closed on Sundays), 3 bag, 6 pos.

SPECIAL LIMITS:

Mallard — 4 bag (only 2 female), 8 pos. (only 4 female).

Scaup — 3 bag, 6 pos.

Redhead, Wood Duck — 2 bag, 4 pos.

Pintail, Black Duck — 1 bag, 2 pos.

Canvasback, Fulvous — 1 bag, 2 pos.

Whistling Duck, Hooded — 1 bag, 2 pos.

Merganser, Mottled Duck — 1 bag, 2 pos.

Harlequin Duck — Closed Season.

All Other Ducks — 4 bag, 8 pos.

Hunting Hours: Half-hour before sunrise to sunset.

For more information, contact H. Heusmann, (508) 792-7270, ext. 122.

BOARD VOTES TO EXTEND BLACK BEAR SEASON IN 2000

The Fisheries and Wildlife Board has voted to extend the September black bear hunting season from six to 17 days, effective as of September 2000. The Board weighed oral and written testimony representing the viewpoints and opinions of farmers, landowners, conservationists, preservationists, and the general public prior to their August 26th vote.

Jim Cardoza, MassWildlife BearProject Leader, believes the Board is taking the long-term interests of both Massachusetts residents and the black bear population to heart.

"The Board realizes we're addressing the bear issue on all fronts," stated Cardoza, "and that the hunting season is one option we use along with education, habitat management, and technical assistance to help the people of Massachusetts co-exist with bears."

He continued, "There are very real issues in the western third of the state relating to damage caused by bears as they raid cornfields, hives, backyard birdfeeders, campgrounds, trash containers, and even homes. If we can use the year 2000 hunting seasons as a means of slowing the bear population growth rate, we'll head off additional conflicts while utilizing a valuable and abundant resource."

For more information, contact Jim Cardoza, (508) 792-7270, ext. 124.

FISH REPORTS FRESH WATER

Valley lakes and ponds have been tough, according to local anglers. The fish are either in the weeds or are suspended in deep water. Kurt over at Saunders Marina on Congamond Lakes tells of some quality-sized largemouth being taken on plastic worms and lead-head grubs.

Stream fishing has just about come to a standstill due to low water conditions. Some much-needed rain may help to improve the water levels in our streams and rivers.

SALT WATER

The RACE is on! Party and charter boats have been working locations from the Race to Mountauk with fairly consistent results. Strippers and blues have been coming aboard with regularity. Diamond jigs in the 10- to 14-ounce sizes have been a killer on the blues.

Surf fishermen have been scoring stripers and fluke from the Rhode Island beaches, as well as along the Cape.

Offshore fishing is getting set for what we hope will be a strong tuna season in September.

Blue shark fishing continues to keep the offshore action going (at least for the present).

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plus Pro Stocks, Trucks & Sportsman
Grandstands Open 3:00 PM, Adults \$29.99 ea.
Kids 11 & under FREE with a paid adult!
Rain Date: Monday, Sept. 6th at 1:00 PM

Sunday Night Back to School Bash!
Sunday, September 5th 6:00PM
SCHOOL BUS DEMOLITION DERBY
plus Enduro Racing & More!

FOR RACE INFO Call (413) 786-9300
www.riversideparkspeedway.com

Fall 1999 Calendar From Agawam Parks And Recreation Department

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday, September 7th: Swimming Lessons registration begins at Recreation Office; Stroke & Turn Clinic registration begins at Recreation Office.

Wednesday, September 15th: Swim Team Parents informational meeting and registration at Agawam Public Library Community Room (6:00 p.m.).

Monday, September 20th: Women's Volleyball begins at Junior High; Stroke & Turn Clinic begins at Junior High.

Tuesday, September 21st: Men's & Co-Ed Volleyball begins at High School.

Wednesday, September 22nd: Swimming Lessons begin at Junior High.

Saturday, September 25th: Swimming Lessons begin at Junior High.

Monday, October 4th: CPR Class registration at Recreation Office.

Wednesday, October 6th: Basketball registration at Junior High Cafeteria (7:00 p.m.).

Tuesdays, October 19th and 26th: CPR Class at Agawam Public Library Community Room (6:00 p.m.).

STROKE & TURN CLINIC

What: A two-week clinic devoted to the mechanics of each stroke, starts and turns, swimming strategy, nutrition, and fitness.

Where: Agawam Junior High School Pool.

Days: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday (check appropriate ages for days and times).

Dates: September 20th through September 30th (check appropriate ages for days and times).

Coach: Kim Scofield, Agawam Piranhas Head Swim Coach.

Swimmers must have at least one year of competitive swimming experience to participate in the Stroke & Turn Clinic.

Ages seven and eight: Tuesday and Thursday, 4:00 to 5:00 p.m. (cost - \$20).

Ages 9 and 10: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. (cost - \$25).

Ages 11 and 12: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. (cost - \$35).

Registration: Begins Tuesday, September 7th, at the Recreation Office.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Piranhas Swim Team

The Agawam Recreation Department sponsors a competitive swim team for children ages five through 18. Swimmers must be at least five years old by October 1, 1999 and able to swim one length of the pool to be eligible for swim team.

Practice time and cost will vary, based on swimmer's age. Registration will be held at the parents' meeting and will continue at the Recreation Office on September 16th.

Parents' meeting/registration: Wednesday, September 15th, Agawam Public Library Community Room, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Practice begins: Monday, October 4th, Agawam Junior High School, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Public Swim

The Agawam Junior High School Pool will be open for public swim on Friday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult.

Floatation devices are not permitted. Disposable diapers are not permitted in the pool at any time. A cloth diaper with rubber pants or "swimmies" diapers are recommended.

Public swim: Fridays, starting September 24th, Agawam Junior High School, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Cost: \$2 for ages six and older; \$1 for ages five and younger.

Perry Lane Nursery School

The Town of Agawam runs a Nursery School for children ages three to five at Perry Lane. Call the Recreation Department at 821-0514 for more information.

Swimming Lessons

American Red Cross Swimming Lessons will be offered this fall at the Agawam Junior High School. These lessons will last for eight weeks.

Wednesdays, starting September 22nd to November 10th: three to five year-olds, 4:45 to 5:15

p.m.; six years and older, 5:15 to 5:45 p.m.

Saturdays, starting September 25th to November 20th (no class on October 9th): three to five year-olds, 9:30 to 10:00 a.m.; six years and older, 10:00 to 10:30 a.m.

Cost: \$15 per person.

Registration: Begins Tuesday, September 7th.

Limit: Classes will be limited to 15 participants.

Youth Basketball

The Agawam Recreation Department sponsors the in-town basketball program for children in grades three to 12. Registration will be held on Wednesday, October 6th, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Agawam Junior High School Cafeteria.

Any adult interested in coaching is asked to call the Recreation Office at 821-0514.

Instructional Basketball

Participants in grades one and two, or age six by January 1, 2000, will learn the fundamentals of basketball on Saturday mornings. Registration will be held on Wednesday, October 6th, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the Agawam Junior High School Cafeteria.

Any adult interested in coaching is asked to call the Recreation Office at 821-0514.

Youth Wrestling

The Youth Wrestling Club will hold its registration on Monday, October 4th, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Agawam Public Library Community Room. The program is open to children in grades four through 12.

Cost: \$50. For more information, call Dan Sullivan at 786-6265 or Kirk Parker at 786-6604.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Walking Group

Anyone interested in walking for exercise or using the High School track in the evening is encouraged to join Officer Karen Langevin on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. at the High School track.

The track will be open through October (weather permitting).

Women's Volleyball

Women's Volleyball is for women age 18 and over.

Mondays, starting September 20th to November 29th (no volleyball on October 11th), Agawam Junior High School, 6:45 to 8:45 p.m.

Cost: \$3/night or \$25/10 weeks.

Men's & Co-Ed Volleyball

Men's & Co-Ed Volleyball is for men and women age 18 and over.

Tuesdays, starting September 21st to November 23rd, Agawam High School, 6:45 to 8:45 p.m.

Cost: \$3/night or \$25/10 weeks.

Registration for volleyball will be accepted the first night of the program at the gyms.

Drop-In Basketball

Drop-In Basketball is a supervised basketball program for Agawam residents age 18 and over. Proof of age and residency is required for admission.

Mondays and Wednesdays, starting October 18th, Agawam High School, 6:45 to 8:45 p.m.

Cost: \$2/night.

Registration for Drop-In Basketball is not necessary.

The drop-in fee for the volleyball and basketball programs is payable to the site supervisor each visit.

Springfield Falcons Hockey

The Springfield Falcons are pleased to announce seven "Group Nights" at the Nest. These games will have a family-oriented theme and will benefit the Town of Agawam's Recreation Department. A one-price ticket of \$7 allows children, adults, and seniors admission to the game(s) of your choice.

Tickets must be purchased at the Recreation Department by the Thursday prior to the game date. Call the Recreation Department at 821-0514 for more information.

SCHEDULE:

Saturday, October 9th: Worcester Ice Cats, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 13th: Quebec Canadiens, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, December 10th: Providence Bruins, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 23rd: Providence Bruins, 5:00 p.m.

Friday, February 11th: Quebec Canadiens, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, March 3rd: Hartford Wolf Pack, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, April 7th: Providence Bruins, 7:30 p.m.

CPR Classes

The Recreation Department is offering two American Heart Association CPR classes. Participants will learn the risk factors for heart disease, signs and symptoms of a heart attack and stroke, and adult CPR.

This six-hour course is the perfect class to learn CPR for the first time and is ideal for senior citizens, coaches, babysitters, Boy and Girl Scouts, and any other organization.

Tuesdays, October 19th and 26th, Agawam Library, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Instructor: Cheryl Sabola.

Registration: Begins Monday, October 4th, at Recreation Office.

Limit: 18 participants.

Cost: \$35.

Bowling

The Parks and Recreation Department is a proud sponsor of the "Agawam School Bowling League" at Games and Lanes.

* *Elementary School League* - Tuesdays or Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. \$4 per child for two games starting September 14th.

* *Middle School League* - Wednesdays at 2:45 p.m. \$5 per child for three games starting September 15th.

* *Adult/Child League* - Mondays at 6:00 p.m. \$10 per two-person team starting September 13th.

Call Games and Lanes for more information at 789-3273.

General Information

The Agawam Parks and Recreation Office is located in the rear of Agawam High School.

Christopher Sparks, Director of Parks and Recreation; Jennifer Kerr, Administrative Assistant.

Address: 760 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA 01001.

Phone: (413) 821-0514.

Fax: (413) 789-2610.

Refunds

If a class is cancelled by the Recreation Department, a full refund or credit will be given. A \$15 fee will be charged for all refunds due to participant cancellation.

There are NO MAKE-UPS FOR MISSED CLASSES.

Bounced Check Fees

The Town of Agawam will impose a \$25 fee on checks returned due to insufficient funds.

Registration

Registration must be done in person. No phone registrations will be accepted. Enrollment for all programs is limited on a first come, first served basis.

Registration with payment for all courses is required; make checks payable to "Town of Agawam." A parent's or legal guardian's signature is required for all youth programs.

Inclement Weather Policy

In the case of severe weather conditions, the Recreation Department will list all cancellations on the Recreation Department's answering machine.

Please call the Recreation Office at 821-0514.

Insurance

The Town of Agawam does not carry insurance to cover hospitalization or medical costs for anyone injured in or watching any of our Parks and Recreation programs.

Program participants must sign a grant of permission and release waiver to participate in Recreation Department sponsored activities.

Sign-Ups Slated For Gymnastics At Spfld. Turnverein

Sign-ups for the STV Gymnastics program will be held September 7th, 9th, 14th, and 16th. Sign-ups are at the Springfield Turnverein, 176 Garden St., Feeding Hills.

Coaches will be available at sign-ups to explain the program to newcomers. We offer classes to ages four and up and also have competitive teams for boys and girls.

For more information, call Jessica Hansen at 786-6660 or the Springfield Turnverein at 786-0924.

"Twisters" Open Soccer Season With 6-0 Home Victory Over The Ware Dare

The girls' under-11 Twisters of the Pioneer Valley Soccer League opened their season in grand style on Saturday, August 28th, as they waltzed to a convincing 6-0 victory at home against the Ware Dare.

The Twisters totally dominated, displaying a flawless passing game and erupting with an impressive show of offense. Brand-new team member Lisa Carney made her presence felt in a hurry, scoring two goals for the Twisters.

Carney also shared goal-keeping duties with Stephanie Obue and Brittany DeGray, and all three played sharply and were assisted by a stellar Twisters defense which held Ware to only

one shot on goal.

"The girls put in a fine effort, both offensively and defensively," said Coach Mike Obue. "It's great to have a game like this after all their hard work at the team practices this summer," he said.

Christina Bertrand also scored two goals for the Twisters, and Erin Theriault and Megan Lalli each added a goal. New team members Laura Lyons and Kayla Bryant also played well in their opening games for the Twisters.

The team plays on Labor Day Weekend in the Riverside Classic tournament. Please come out to the Agawam Junior High School to watch some fine soccer and to cheer on our Agawam Twisters.

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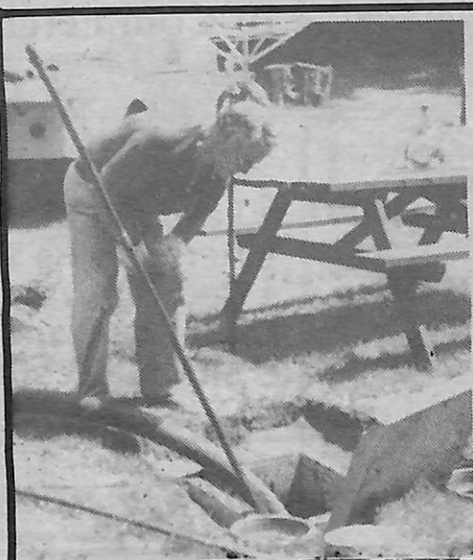
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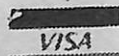
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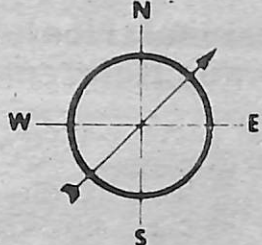
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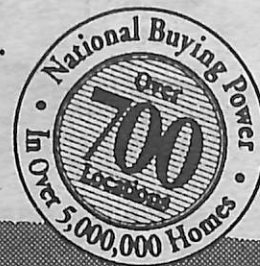
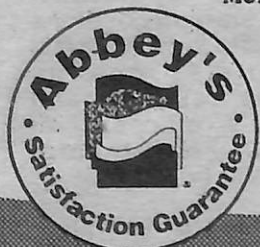
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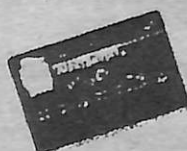
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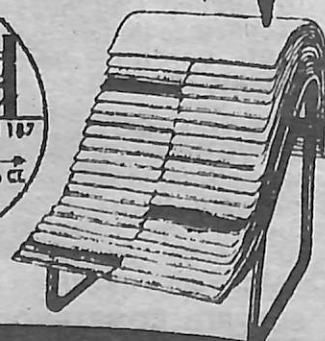
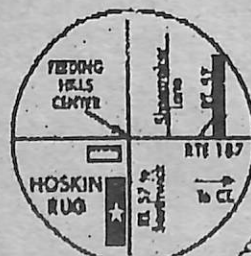
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